LIBRARY

JUN 10 1985

National Marine Fisheries Service
2570 Dole Street
Honolulu, Hawaii

FISHERY COMMODITY SITUATION AND OUTLOOK 1984/85

by

Fish Utilization and Marketing Service
Fishery Industries Division
Fisheries Department

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
Rome, March 1985

W/M8405

For bibliographic purposes this document should be cited as follows:

FAO, Fish Utilization and Marketing Service, Fishery Industries Division, Fishery 1985 commodity situation and outlook 1984/85. FAO Fish.Circ., (782):57 p.

FAO Fisheries Circular (FAO Fish.Circ.)

A vehicle for distribution of short or ephemeral notes, lists, etc., including provisional versions of documents to be issued later in other series.

Abstract

This paper examines the situation in world fish production and trade in fishery commodities in 1984, and notes the trends becoming apparent in 1985, using statistical information available up to January of that year. This was supplemented by information from the GLOBEFISH Databank.

CONTENTS

	Page
GENERAL	1
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
PRINCIPAL FISHERY COMMODITY MARKETS:	
Fresh and Frozen Groundfish	6
Herring	8
Mackerel	11
Salmon	12
Tuna	13
FROZEN SHELLFISH:	
Shrimp	20
Lobster	33
Crab	33
FROZEN CEPHALOPODS, MOLLUSCS AND FROGLEGS:	
Cephalopods	34
Molluscs	37
Froglegs	37
CURED FISH:	37
CANNED FISH:	
Canned Tuna	42
Canned Sardine	47
Canned Mackerel	51
Canned Shrimp	52
Canned Salmon	52
FISH MEAL AND FISH OIL:	
Fish meal	52
Fish Oil	56

Page

LIST OF TABLES:

Table 1	US imports of frozen groundfish and flatfish, blocks and slabs	7
Table 2	US imports of frozen fish blocks and slabs	7
Table 3	Groundfish fillets and steaks imports	7
Table 4	EEC proposals for 1985 TACs and Country Quotas	10
Table 5	US tuna cannery receipts	14
Table 6	US imports of frozen and fresh tuna	15
Table 7	Tuna landings and average ex-vessel prices	16
Table 8	Japanese tuna imports	16
Table 9	Cumulative Gulf shrimp production, by species	21
Table 10	Cumulative Gulf shrimp production, by State	21
Table 11	US monthly shrimp imports (all types)	24
Table 12	US fresh and frozen shrimp imports by size, through selected custom ports	25
Table 13	Japanese frozen shrimp imports	27
Table 14	Cumulative Japanese shrimp imports	30
Table 15	US imports of scallops	36
Table 16	US imports of fresh or frozen froglegs	36
Table 17	Norwegian exports of dried, salted and smoked fish, by country	40
Table 18	Norwegian exports of dried, salted and smoked fish, by species	40
Table 19	Icelandic exports of dried, salted and smoked fish, by product	41
Table 20	Icelandic dried, salted and smoked fish export, by country	41

		Page
Table 21	Imports of canned tuna into France	43
Table 22	Imports of canned tuna into the UK	43
Table 23	Imports of canned tuna into the Federal Republic of Germany	46
Table 24	UK imports of canned pilchards	48
Table 25	Japan exports of canned sardines/pilchards	48
Table 26	UK imports of canned sardines	49
Table 27	Federal Republic of Germany imports of canned sardines	49
Table 28	France imports of canned sardines	50

LIST OF FIGURES:

Figure 1	Japan: S.West Pacific frozen skipjack prices	17
Figure 2	Japan: Tuna ex-vessel prices	18
Figure 3	USA: Pud shrimp prices, origin Pakistan	22
Figure 4	USA: Pud shrimp prices, origin India	23
Figure 5	Monthly average shrimp prices in USA and Japan	28
Figure 6	Japan: Pud shrimp prices, origin India, C & F Japan	29
Figure 7	Europe: Headless freshwater shrimp prices, origin Bangladesh	32
Figure 8	Japan: Cuttlefish and squid prices	35
Figure 9	India: Export prices of dried fish	38
Figure 10	Canned lightmeat tuna prices, origin Thailand	44
Figure 11	Canned lightmeat tuna prices, origin Philippines	45
Figure 12	Fish meal prices	55

Fishery Commodity Situation and Outlook 1984/85

This report was prepared in January 1985. At that time complete data for 1984 were not available. In the case of most countries, data up to Sept-Oct 1984 were used, as the basis for extrapolating trends for the major commodity group. At the global level, such an extrapolation presents greater difficulties. A final assessment of the overall fisheries commodity situation 1984 and outlook for 1985 will therefore be prepared later in the year, when more complete data are available.

General

The data presently available for 1984 indicate a 2-3% increase in total landings, mainly due to higher production by Japan and Latin American countries. The share of food fish production in total fish catch seems likely to be lower than in 1983.

The total volume of fish entering international trade appears to have increased, while export unit values were lower because of a higher quantity of fishmeal marketed and declining prices for the high value commodities (tuna, shrimp). The share of developing countries in total fish exports again seems to have risen in 1984, while the importance of developing countries as fish importers appear to have further declined, principally because of the imposition of import restrictions as a result of currency problems.

Executive Summary

Fresh and Frozen Groundfish

There was a further slight decrease in Atlantic groundfish production in 1984, mainly as a result of strikes in Iceland and Canada. The volume of groundfish entering international market is expected to have been less than in 1983. Alaska pollock production was up for Japan and Republic of Korea, while hake landings in South America were likely to be lower in 1984 than in 1983.

Overall imports into the USA decreased. In the first half of 1984, groundfish prices in the USA were low, but they increased dramatically in the second half because of low supply and higher consumer demand. Cod landings in the UK, FR Germany and France were low, resulting in higher imports by the UK and FR Germany and overall higher prices.

Cod exporting countries were further shifting from the production of cured cod to frozen cod, as the market constraints in African countries for salted/dried cod continued during 1984.

Herring

Herring landings in 1984 are expected to be above 1983 levels, mainly because of the recovery of the North Sea herring stock. Trade in North Sea and Baltic herring is mainly intra-European, with Denmark and Sweden as the major exporting countries. FR Germany remained the major market for herring and herring products, while the USSR has imported less herring in 1984 than in previous years. The European market could absorb the higher supply in 1984, and there was only a relatively small fall in prices. An increasing quantity of herring was used for fishmeal production.

Supplies are expected to continue this upward trend, resulting in further price reduction. It is likely that there will be an increase in utilizing herring for reduction to fishmeal and fish oil.

Mackerel

Landings of mackerel in Japan are likely to stay far below the 1977-1980 average. The major part of the mackerel catch goes into the canneries, but because of the depressed international market for canned mackerel, the supply of fresh and frozen mackerel to the Japanese market was higher in 1984 than in previous years, with wholesale prices 15% below 1983 average.

The major exporter of fresh and frozen mackerel remained the UK, but 1984 exports are likely to have dropped sharply. After 1983, when mackerel prices in Europe had reached record levels, the trend of prices has turned in 1984. However, as the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for mackerel in 1985 is far below the 1984 quota, higher prices can be foreseen for 1985.

Salmon

The North American 1984 red salmon harvest was lower than in 1983, while more pink and chum salmon was caught; most of the salmon landings went into canneries, as inventories of frozen salmon in the USA were kept low. Japan reported a slightly lower salmon catch in 1984, and imports of salmon into Japan in 1984 have been below 1983 levels. Thus the supply of salmon to Japan is expected to be about 90,000 tons less than in 1983. As a result, inventories were dramatically down and prices were up again in 1984, after they had reached a historical low in 1983.

Norway's farm-raised salmon production continues to expand, total 1984 production is estimated to be 27,000 tons. About 90% of their production is exported, primarily in dried form.

Frozen Tuna

In general, the world tuna market remained depressed throughout 1984, because of a persistent oversupply of skipjack. Prices for skipjack and yellowfin fell generally during 1984, while albacore prices were firm.

Total 1984 US tuna supplies were slightly below 1983 levels, as both imports and domestic production declined. Tuna landings in Japan increased in 1984, because of higher skipjack and albacore landings, but imports were down. Imports by European countries decreased, which confirms the trend of canneries to move into low-labour-cost countries.

The new developments in the US and European canneries, i.e. to move closer to the production areas, will increase their price margins and make their product more competitive with imported products from low-labour cost countries.

Frozen Shrimp

Total world landings of shrimp in 1984 are likely to have been abundant. More shrimp entered the world trade, and prices were generally down.

Iceland and Norway had excellent coldwater shrimp landings, which increasingly supplied the European market.

US shrimp landings were higher in 1984: imports also increased further, but at a lower pace than in previous years. The heavy 1984 demand, mainly because of low prices and higher incomes in the USA, kept supplies moving and US consumption of shrimp is likely to have reached a record level in 1984. Japanese demand for shrimp was slightly above 1983, but well below 1982 levels.

Looking at 1985, the US demand for shrimp will remain high, but is likely to increase less than in 1984. Japanese consumption of shrimp could improve in 1985, provided prices stay at the present low level. European demand is expected to pick up after a poor year in 1984.

Lobster

International trade in lobster improved in 1984, with the high US dollar attracting greater quantities to the USA.

Supplies were generally below demand, and lobster prices increased throughout 1984. The anticipated lower supply from the major producing countries point to a continuation of the good market condition in 1985.

Crab

There was a significant improvement in crab trade in 1984, which returned to 1982 levels. Landings in the USA continued their progressive decline. Canada is increasingly becoming a major supplier of crab to Japan. Japanese exports of artificial crabmeat show a tremendous increase reaching 27,700 tons in 1984, of which 82% are going to the USA.

Cephalopods

The principal markets for cephalopod products continue to be Japan, Spain and Italy. Landings of squid in Japan were higher while imports are likely to stay at 1983 levels. Prices for squid in Japan fluctuated, in general remaining at the low 1983 level. The Japanese market for octopus, which is mainly supplied by imports, was strong in 1984, attracting 85,000 tons in the first 10 months.

In Europe, the market for cephalopods throughout 1984 has generally been unfavourable, characterized by high inventories and low prices in Spain, and by an increasing consumer resistance to high prices in Italy. France experienced a poor market due to currency problems.

Molluscs

Low landings of scallops in the USA continued in 1984, any recovery is unlikely before 1986 at the earliest. As a result of low supply and strong demand, scallop meat prices remained at the high 1983 levels. Demand will be high also in 1985, with prices weaker, due to increased imports.

Froglegs

US imports of froglegs recovered from the low 1983 level. Exporting countries adapted to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) restrictions and India returned to be the main supplier to the US market. The European market was undersupplied, as the strong US dollar attracted the short supplies to the US.

Cured Fish

International trade in cured fish products remained at the low 1983 level. Norway succeeded in increasing exports of klippfish and salted groundfish, but stockfish exports remained depressed because of import restrictions in Nigeria. The other major exporting countries for cured North Atlantic groundfish - Iceland and Canada - reported further decreases in exports. In Asia, trade for the dried shark fin delicacy was dull, but showed some signs of recovery. The import licences issued by Nigeria at the end of 1984, could have a positive impact on the cured fish trade in 1985.

Canned Tuna

The share of imported tuna in total US supply is increasing and is expected to reach 20% by the end of 1984. Wholesale prices in 1984 remained at the low 1983 levels. US canneries are moving tuna canning capacity to locations closer to major fishing grounds and they are expected to produce canned tuna at prices competitive with canned tuna imports from low-labour-cost countries.

In Japan, production and exports of canned tuna especially skipjack, expanded in 1984. European production seems to have fallen while imports increased. European imports are shared between Southeast Asian countries (Thailand) and West African countries (Ivory Coast, Senegal).

The availability of cheap products on the international market is likely to continue in 1985, canned tuna from developing countries is likely to have an increased market share in Europe.

Canned Pilchard

The quantity of canned pilchard entering world trade was higher in 1984, mainly because of the recovery of Peruvian exports. There were no imports by the Philippines or Nigeria because of inport restrictions, while Middle Eastern countries were emerging as a market for canned pilchard from Japan. Sales in Europe were affected by the improved availability of the North Sea herring.

Canned Mediterranean Sardine

The quantity of canned Mediterranean sardine in the international market decreased in 1984, because of lower Morocco and Spanish exports to West African countries. Imports into the main European markets (France, UK, FR Germany) show no major changes.

Canned Mackerel

World trade in canned mackerel appears to have remained at the low 1983 level. Japan, by far the major exporter, reported a slight decrease in canned mackerel shipments, with prices declining further. The Nigerian market, which accounted for more than 40% of Japanese canned mackerel exports in 1982, and for 20% in 1983, was nil in 1984. Papua New Guinea is at present the major outlet for canned mackerel, with over 15,000 tons imported in the first 8 months of 1984.

Canned Salmon

The low red salmon harvest, and the high US dollar, resulted in decreased US exports of salmon. Wholesale prices for all canned salmon products were at the high end of the annual price range in September 1984. The production of canned red salmon seems to have decreased, while pink and chum salmon was up.

Canned Shrimp

The quantity of canned shrimp entering the international market in 1984 is likely to have decreased, due mainly to lower exports from India to the USA. Imports by the UK were considerably down, indicating a 25% lower supply of canned shrimp.

Fishmeal

There was an increase in fishmeal production and trade in 1984, due to the recovery of the Peruvian fishing industry after the negative consequence of the "El Niño" phenomenon. Iceland also increased production because of the higher capelin catch. 1984 fishmeal exports are expected to reach 2.2 million tons as compared with 1.76 million tons in 1983. The downward pressure on fishmeal prices continued and because of low soyabean meal prices, overall demand for fishmeal was sluggish. On the positive side, the USSR and Chinese imports are likely to increase further.

Fish Oil

World production of fish oil for 1984 is estimated at 1.26 million tons, as against 1.12 million tons in 1983 and 1.29 million tons in 1982. This increase was mainly due to higher production in Chile, Peru, Iceland, and Japan. Fish oil output by Denmark and other EEC countries is expected to remain at 1983 levels. World fish oil exports rose to a record level of 962,000 tons. The increased use of fish oil in the main consuming countries was to offset the sharp reduction in the supplies of soyabean oil, sunflower oil, palm oil and vegetable oil. Fish oil prices declined almost continously throughout 1984, but they are likely to strengthen vis-a-vis soyabean and palm oils in the early first months of 1985.

Principal Fishery Commodity Markets

Fresh and Frozen Groundfish

Groundfish catches by the leading exporters of groundfish products are expected to be slightly below 1983 levels, mainly due to strikes in Canada and Iceland in the second half of 1984. The volume of groundfish products entering the international market is also expected to be less than in 1983.

Catches of cod by Norway in Jan/Sept 1984 were reported to be close to their 1983 nine-month level of 245,000 tons. Saithe cathes, at 160,000 MT, were slightly above this level in the same period. It must be mentioned, however, that the 1983 figures results were extremely low. Exports of fresh groundfish increased by 10% in the first 9 months of 1984 to 39,187 tons, FR Germany and Denmark being the main importing countries, while exports of frozen groundfish decreased by the same percentage to 41,718 tons. The reason for this decrease was lower imports by Japan, the major market for Norwegian frozen groundfish.

Catches of cod by Iceland dropped by 10% to 230,000 tons in Jan/Sept 1984, but supplies of frozen cod increased, due to the declining utilization of cod for salted/dried products. While in 1983, more than 50% of the cod landings were cured, in Jan/Sept 1984 this share was only 38%. Iceland's exports of frozen

Table 1

US imports of frozen groundfish and flatfish, blocks and slabs, by country, 1982-1984 (in 1000 lb)

Country of origin	1982	1983	1984
Argentina	12,796	12,589	4,088
Canada	108,538	123,740	100,486
Denmark	31,923	53,740	63,735
Greenland	15,345	14,624	5,272
Iceland	49,451	60,347	47,513
Japan	6,146	10,797	8,622
Korea, Rep. of	41,192	57,116	50,888
Norway	24,612	26,344	19,425
Total :	318,976	384,464	316,159

Table 2

US imports of frozen fish blocks and slabs, by species, 1982 and 1983 (in 1000 lb)

Species	1982	1983
Cod	149,094	197,983
Haddock	29,277	27,758
Pollack	61,019	79,491
Whiting	24,211	24,400
Ocean perch	3,987	6,037
Flatfish	11,792	11,687
Total :	318,976	384,464

Table 3

Groundfish fillets and steaks imports, by species, 1982, 1983, Jan-Sept 1984 (in 1000 lb)

Species	1982	1983	1984 (Jan-Sept)
Cod	169,045	183,268	157,613
Haddock*	60,250	61,675	42,956
Ocean perch - Atlantic	65,898	53,227	45,470
Total :	295,193	298,170	246,039

* Includes some quantities of tusk, hake and pollack fillets

Source: NMFS Fishery Market News Report

groundfish fillets decreased further by 11% in the period Jan/Oct 1984 to 81,734 tons. The major importing country by far was the USA, with 50,000 tons, while sales to the UK failed to grow. Exports to the USSR, another major market for Icelandic frozen groundfish fillets, were 19 percent below the Jan/Oct 1983 figures, reaching 11,000 tons in the first 10 months of 1984. Groundfish landings by the Faroe Islands were extremely high in 1984 with cod catches decreasing slightly. Cod landings in Sweden were higher in 1984 than the year before, reaching the 1983 figure (51,800 tons) in Jan-Oct.

In Canada, landings of groundfish were down in 1984, mainly due to decreased cod production. Exports of fresh groundfish and frozen fillets to the USA increased during the first 9 months of 1984, while groundfish block exports decreased. As these data do not reflect the impact of the strike, an overall negative result can be expected for Canadian groundfish export in 1984.

Argentina, the major hake producer of the Southern Hemisphere, reportedly experienced low hake catches in 1984 (-30% in Jan/Aug 1984). Continuing difficulties in marketing frozen hake, in part due to import restriction by Nigeria, were the main reasons for this decline.

As a result of the strong US dollar, higher quantities of fresh and frozen groundfish were attracted to the USA in the first half of 1984, causing higher inventories and a downward pressure on prices. In the second half of 1984, this situation changed completely as shortages in supply were caused by the strikes in Iceland and Canada, resulting in an increase in prices of frozen groundfish products and low inventories.

With cod landings poor in the UK, FR Germany and France, prices increased in all three countries and 1984 imports have been higher in the UK (+8%) and FR Germany (+8%) than in 1983. In Spain strong demand and competition amongst large wholesalers have forced prices up to record levels.

Landings of Alaska pollack in Japan have so far been above 1983 levels. Frozen cod imports increased considerably, from 65,654 tons in Jan/Oct 1983 to 90,724 tons in Jan/Oct 1984. The USA is expanding its role as the major supplier of frozen groundfish to Japan, accounting for more than 80% of total imports. Import value of frozen cod decreased from US$1.08/kg in Jan/Oct 1983 to US$0.94/kg in Jan/Oct 1984.

Herring

Herring production is likely to have increased in 1984, mainly due to higher landings by Norway. The supply of herring in Europe was good throughout 1984, and prices decreased slightly.

Herring catches by Canada, which was the major herring producer in 1983 (178,400 tons), are likely to have decreased sharply in 1984; in the period Jan/Aug 1984 catches amounted to only 41% of the figure for the corresponding period in 1983. In 1984 Norway's herring landings were much higher than in 1983, as winter herring fisheries reopened for the first time in 13 years. In the first 10 months of 1984, herring landings were already 109,100 tons as compared to 42,700 tons one year earlier. Norway's North Sea herring fishery by this date produced about 86,800 tons, of which more than 80% were sent to reduction. No data are so far available for Sweden and Denmark, but it is likely that their 1984 catches will not be below the 1983 results, 152,511 tons and 173 861 tons, respectively; Iceland seems to have experienced a further reduction in herring landings in 1984.

Trade in North Sea and Baltic herring is largely intra-European, while US and Canadian exports are supplying Japan and the Republic of Korea. Swedish exports of fresh and frozen herring in 1984 are likely to remain at 1983 levels, with Denmark the major outlet. The USA is another important exporter of herring, having totalled 45 157 tons in 1983. Due to lower imports by Japan, exports of frozen herring from the USA can be expected to be down by 25% in 1984. Canadian exports are also likely to be lower in 1984. UK, the fourth major exporter of herring in 1983, reported dramatically reduced trade in fresh herring, 36% lower in Jan/Sept 1984 as compared to the corresponding period in 1983. This was mainly due to lower imports by the USSR, 2,398 tons as compared to 15 348 tons in Jan/Sept 1983.

FR Germany remained the major European market for herring and herring products, though imports in the first 9 months of 1984 decreased slightly by 2,350 tons to 64,077 tons. The swing of imports from frozen to fresh herring continued also in 1984, when about 3/4 of imports were fresh herring. The main supplier of herring to FR Germany is Denmark, accounting for 58% of German imports. Improved results from the domestic herring fishery (+80%), reaching 19 300 tons in Jan/Sept 1984, kept the market well supplied. Herring import prices decreased slightly from 1.10 DM/kg for fresh whole herring in June/Sept 1983 to 1.07 DM/kg in June/Sept 1984.

Another important market for herring product is Japan. Imports decreased slightly (-4%) in Jan/Oct 1984 when 45 000 tons of frozen herring were imported. The USA remains the major supplier of herring to Japan, but its share decreased from 80% in 1983 to about 60% in 1984. Import prices of frozen herring in Japan decreased from 390 yen/kg in 1983 to 305 yen/kg in 1984.

Table 4

EEC Proposals for 1985 TACs and Country Quotas (MT)

		Fed.Rep. Germany	France	Nether-lands	UK	Denmark	Ireland
Cod :	1985	87,840	39,540	25,950	129,550	166,420	11,520
	1984	83,380	36,390	23,230	117,910	234,350	11,520
Haddock :	1985	7,530	20,270	1,270	151,540	11,690	3,820
	1984	7,110	19,340	1,120	140,840	18,615	4,370
Saithe :	1985	25,260	95,020	210	27,400	8,390	3,730
	1984	21,110	69,850	190	20,860	7,550	3,060
Whiting :	1985	4,390	41,400	9,290	92,890	15,879	22,700
	1984	3,900	37,510	8,630	79,480	34,190	17,800
Plaice :	1985	10,780	7,500	71,810	59,570	42,100	3,730
	1984	9,860	7,250	66,890	53,710	46,110	3,070
Redfish :	1985	62,535	2,410	-	375	-	-
	1984	62,820	2,410	-	380	4,890	-
Mackerel:	1985	22,190	14,930	32,180	200,160	8,000	72,640
	1984	25,600	17,100	37,300	223,700	7,400	85,300

Source: Eurofish Report

Mackerel

The major producing country of mackerel is Japan, with 8,000,000 tons caught in 1983. The 1984 result is difficult to predict, as the major catch period is November-January. Total landings in the first nine months of 1984 would indicate a downward trend as only 259,000 tons were caught, as compared to 319,000 tons in the corresponding period of 1983. A large quantity of the landed mackerel goes into the canneries, while an average of 55,000-65,000 ton of fresh and frozen mackerel reach the market in 6 major Japanese cities. The 1984 supply of mackerel to Japanese markets was slightly above the 1983 figures, with wholesale prices for mackerel generally 10-15% below 1983 values. Exports of fresh and frozen mackerel from Japan are low, 9,931 tons in 1983. The Jan/Aug 1984 export figures indicate an upward trend, reaching 7,672 tons as compared to 6,710 tons a year earlier. The main importing countries of frozen mackerel from Japan are Singapore and Indonesia.

Exports of mackerel by the UK totalled 219,400 tons in 1983, which was a 37% increase over the 1982 figure. Such results will not be achieved in 1984. As with herring exports, shipments of British mackerel dropped dramatically from 101,893 tons in Jan/Sept 1983 to 45,712 tons in Jan/Sept 1984, due to lower imports by the USSR (-75%). Other Eastern European countries, which are traditionally the major markets for UK mackerel, also decreased their imports: GermanyDem.Rep (-61%), Bulgaria (-56%) and Romania (-27%). Imports by the major European market - France - where much of the mackerel is used in the canning industry, are likely to have increased further. Shipments of fresh and frozen mackerel to FR Germany, another major European importer, decreased in the first 9 months of 1984 by 12% to 14,355 tons. The major supplier remained the Netherlands, accounting for more than 60% of German imports.

After 1983, when demand was relatively strong and frozen mackerel prices were up in Europe, ex-vessel and import prices for mackerel decreased in 1984, in FR Germany the import value decreased from 1.26 DM/kg in Sept. 1983 to 1.00 DM/kg in Sept. 1984.

For 1985, the EEC Commission in Brussels fixed the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for mackerel at 350,100 tons compared to 396,400 tons in 1983. This decrease in TAC could have a strengthening effect on prices. There was some concern in mid-1984, when net exports of mackerel from the Netherlands were far above the TAC. Estimations indicate that Dutch mackerel landings in 1983/84 were some 90,000 tons above the quota.

Salmon

The overall North American harvest of red salmon was poor, while pink and chum landings were up. Production of canned red salmon was 27% below last year's output, but canning of the other salmon species was up. US inventories for salmon at the end of October 1984 for salmon were 21% higher than in October 1983, totaling 25,777 tons, with silver and chum salmon holdings 60% over last year's levels.

The USA is the largest exporter of frozen salmon . In 1983, US exports were 108 000 tons, a fall of 7% from the previous year. Of the US exports, about 80% go to Japan. US exports in the first 10 months of 1984 were 8% below the corresponding 1983 figure. This decrease was due to lower shipments of red salmon to Japan (-23%). Canada, the other major supplier of frozen salmon is also likely to have exported less as August 1984 figures indicate a 30% lower shipment of frozen salmon.

Definite data on the autumn harvest of salmon in Japan are not yet available, but there are indications that the harvest will be below the 1983 results. The Japanese salmon catch in USSR waters has also been reduced by 5.9% to 40 000 tons. Thus the supply of salmon for 1984 is expected to be about 90 000 tons less than last year. Inventories were dramatically down in 1984, to only 45 185 tons on 31/10/84 as compared to 61 096 tons on 31/10/83. About 45% of the salmon supply is salted, while the rest is sold frozen or thawed. The share of salted salmon which was traditionally 55% is below normal. Prices firmed up in 1984, after they had reached an historical low at the end of 1983. The wholesale price of frozen salmon was 1227 yen/kg in August 1984 as compared to 939 yen/kg in August 1983. The corresponding prices for salted salmon were 1330 yen/kg and 988 yen/kg.

The strong US dollar and the fact that the Japanese market attracted most of the frozen salmon, left a short supply for the European market. Imports of fresh and frozen salmon into the UK decreased by 15% to 4065 tons in Jan/Sept 1984. In the same period, imports of salmon into the FR Germany were down by 3% to 3363 tons. France is also likely to have received a smaller quantity of frozen salmon, as export data from the two major suppliers - Canada and USA - indicate a 9% lower salmon shipment for Jan/Aug. 1984.

Norwegian farmed salmon production and exports continued to increase in 1984, total production is estimated to be 27,000 tons. Almost 90% of this salmon production is exported, primarily in chilled form. In Jan/Sept 1984, 3,178 tons of fresh salmon were transported by air to the USA, an increase of 116%. Premium prices were obtained for this product in the major US consuming centres, the cif value of the product was US$7.3/kg. Other major importers of the Norwegian farmed product were the UK, FR Germany, France and Finland. Aquaculture production in Norway is estimated to reach 80,000 tons by the year 1990.

Tuna

The largest import market for frozen tuna is the USA. By the end of November 1984, total fresh and frozen tuna imports were down by 3%, reaching 180,628 tons, with imports of albacore increasing by about 45%. By far the most important tuna exporting country was Japan which succeeded in increasing its share in US imports to 29%, mainly because of heavy albacore shipments. Taiwan (Prov. of China) regained lost positions and increased tuna exports by 20%, Panama also improved its ranking from eighth to third. On the other hand, traditionally major tuna supplying countries lost importance and decreased tuna exports to the USA: Rep of Korea (-45%), France (-36%), Brazil (-55%), Philippines (-65%) and above all Ghana, which dropped from 21,223 tons in Jan/Nov 1983 to 16,105 tons in Jan/Nov 1984.

Supplies to the canneries improved slightly in the first 10 months of 1984 as compared to 1983, but still remained far below the 1979-83 average. Major increases were recorded for albacore (+32%), mainly due to increased imports, while yellowfin supplies were down by 18%.

Ex-vessel prices, recommended by the American Tuna Sales Association, for skipjack and yellowfin, did not recover in 1984, being generally 5-10% below the 1983 recommendation. On the other hand, prices for albacore were firm, and export prices from the Rep of Korea to American Samoa increased steadily throughout the year from US$1695/ton in January 1984 to US$1870/ton in December 1984. Import prices for skipjack recovered from US$739/st in first quarter of 1984 to US$820/st in mid 1984, then dropped again to the 740 US$/st.

Japan is the largest market for fresh and frozen tuna. Canned tuna is only one product form of tuna in Japan, other forms are raw (Sashimi), dried-smoked (Katsuobushi), etc. This explains the considerable volume consumed and the complexity of the market. The Japanese fleet accounts for a quarter of the world's tuna supply, and total tuna production in 1983 was 709,200 tons, making Japan the world's largest tuna catching nation. Total tuna landings in the 51 major Japanese ports were 491,129 tons in the first 10 months of 1984, from which it seems likely that the record 1983 result will be reached in 1984. Albacore landings increased by almost 50% to 52,304 tons and skipjack landings were up 24%. On the other hand bigeye catches were 22% lower in Jan/Oct 1984 than in the corresponding period of 1983.

Total tuna imports into Japan were down by 11% in the first 10 months of 1984 as compared to the corresponding period of 1983, totaling 83,427 tons. Because of the large supplies of domestic landed skipjack, imports of skipjack were negligible: only 800 tons in Jan/Oct 84 as compared to 9,054 ton in the same period of 1983. Imports were down also for the other tuna species with the exception of bluefin: albacore (-53%), yellowfin (-13%) and bigeye (-10%).

Table 5

US tuna cannery receipts
(California, Puerto Rico, Hawaii, American Samoa)

Jan-Nov	Alba-core	Blue-fin	Skip-jack	Yellow-fin	Total
	Short tons				
1979-1983 (average)					
Domestic	9,736	2,570	101,494	110,588	224,388
Imported	80,048	50	157,620	59,775	297,493
Total :	89,784	2,620	259,114	170,363	521,881
1983					
Domestic	10,412	630	138,199	109,625	258,866
Imported	67,699	62	129,549	35,673	232,983
Total :	78,111	692	267,748	145,298	491,849
1984					
Domestic	13,770	384	139,212	85,016	238,382
Imported	86,373	-	126,864	36,358	249,595
Total :	100,143	384	266,076	121,374	487,977

Source: NMFS - Fishery Market News Report

Table 6

US imports of frozen and fresh tuna,
Jan-Dec 1982, Jan-Dec 1983, Jan-Sept 1984 (in 1000 lb)

Country of origin	1982 Jan-Dec	1983 Jan-Dec	1984 (Jan-Sept)
Singapore	5,476	1,589	7,023
Taiwan, PC	54,868	35,659	42,705
Panama	47,830	24,893	26,221
Cayman Islands	17,270	8,622	697
Venezuela	21,198	20,630	14,914
Brazil	29,916	28,587	13,101
France	47,039	35,653	23,429
Spain	19,511	6,180	-
Indonesia	8,596	9,457	372
Philippines	15,029	13,440	3,786
Republic of Korea	14,404	26,239	9,415
Japan	87,355	106,291	83,087
Ghana	29,351	46,789	28,653
Other countries	87,210	75,050	57,304
Total :	485,053	439,079	310,737

Source: NMFS Fishery Market News Report

Table 7

Tuna landings and average ex-vessel prices
in 51 Japanese ports (for all fishing methods)

		June 1984		September 1984		Jan-Oct'84 Landings
		MT	Yen/kg	MT	Yen/kg	MT
S. Bluefin:	Fresh	615	1,905	4	1,773	2,274
	Frozen	309	3,961	2,593	3,051	13,391
Yellowfin:	Fresh	1,700	710	1,647	897	18,197
	Frozen	2,032	650	5,216	607	39,079
Bigeye:	Fresh	895	730	924	1,457	10,222
	Frozen	3,160	1,102	5,258	1,201	52,704
Albacore:	Fresh	7,742	336	207	653	16,112
	Frozen	14,690	376	2,075	245	36,192
Skipjack:	Fresh	15,516	161	20,304	136	113,764
	Frozen	7,456	154	21,102	158	189,194

Table 8

Japanese tuna imports during the period
Jan-Oct 1983 and Jan-Oct 1984 (in MT)

	Jan-Oct 1983	Jan-Oct 1984			
		Total	Korea, Rep. of	Taiwan PC	Panama
Skipjack	9,054	799.8	89.1	17.4	346.4
Albacore	7,088	3,330.9	690.1	108.4	192.6
Yellowfin	46,455	40,351.8	14,312.4	11,948.0	1,342.4
Bluefin	3,567	3,884.8	4.0	369.8	-
Bigeye	38,836	35,060.0	19,306.6	9,703.9	2,394.7
Grand Total :	105,000	93,174.1	38,587.5	25,385.5	4,936.0

Source: NMFS Fishery Market News Report

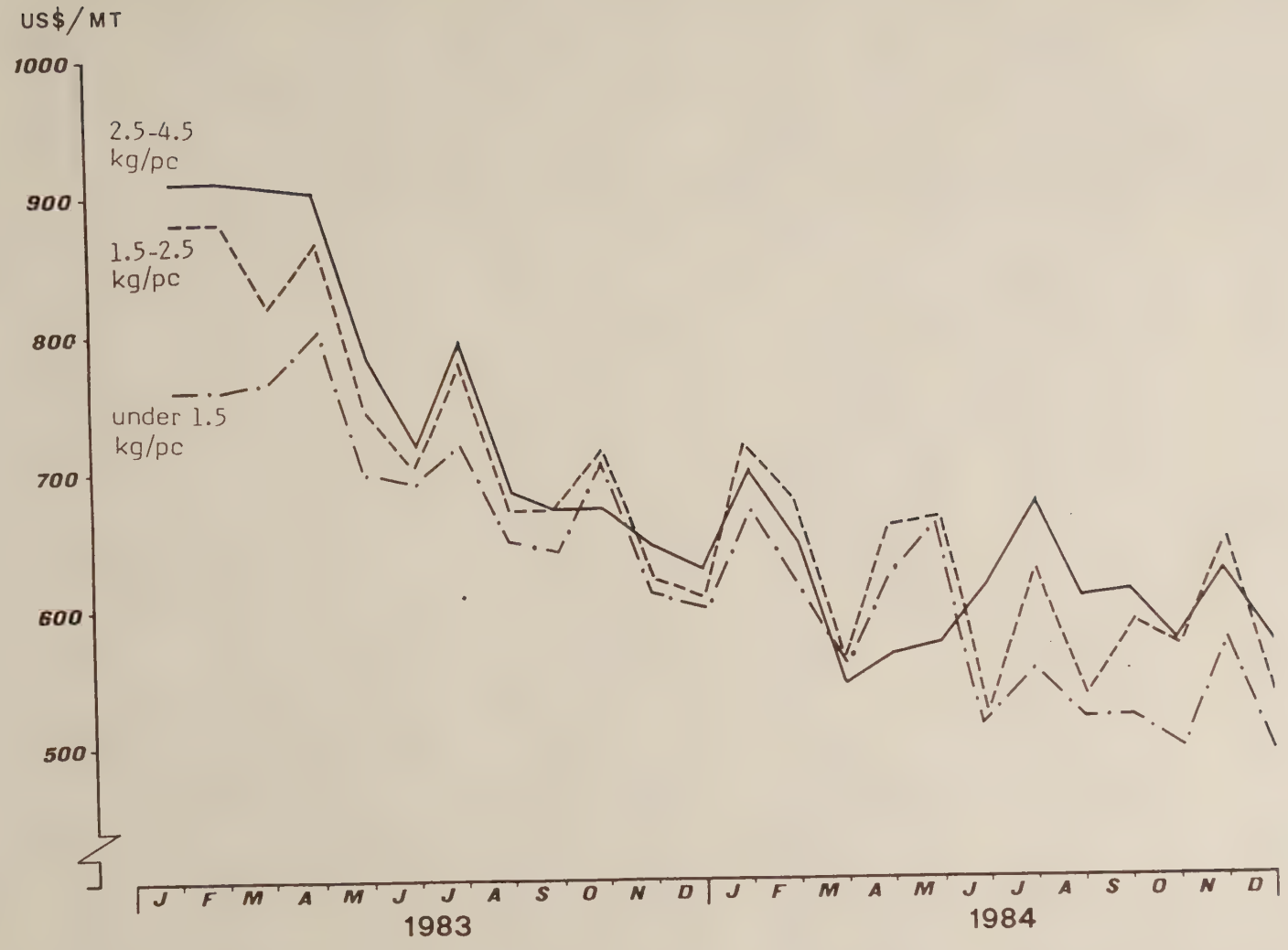

Fig. 1 Japan: S.West Pacific frozen skipjack prices, 1983-1984 (Shiuzu Market)

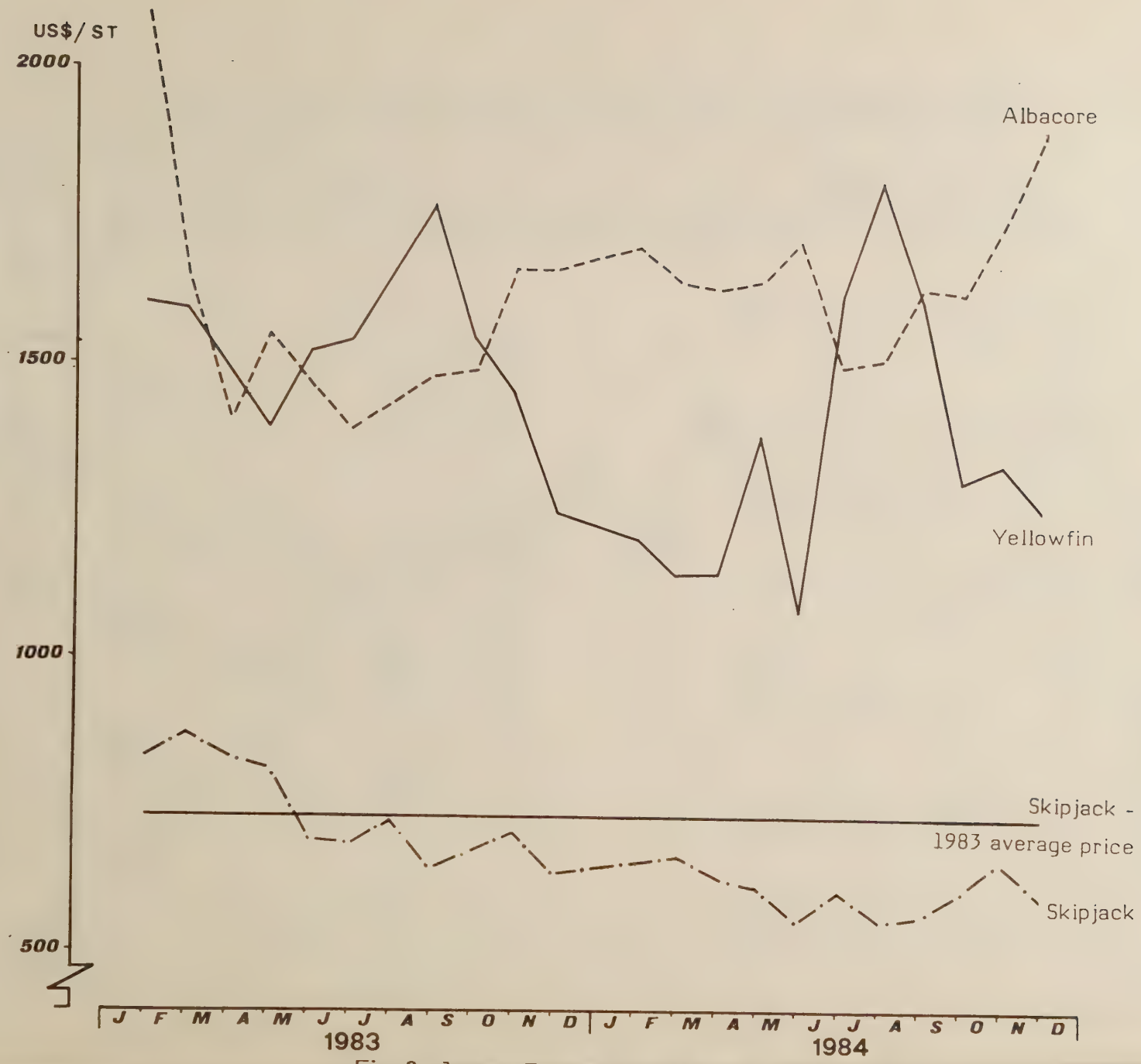

Fig. 2 Japan: Tuna ex-vessel prices 1983-1984

Bigeye tuna imports continued to be dominated by the Republic of Korea and Taiwan, (Province of China), which together accounted for 83% of total imports. These two countries are also the major suppliers of imported yellowfin tuna. New Zealand was, for the first time, the major exporter of frozen albacore to Japan, accounting for nearly two thirds of the total quantity imported, while Australia provided the same share of Japanese bluefin imports through the joint Australia/Japanese sashimi operation.

The sashimi market for high-quality products (high oil content) strengthened in late 1984. Lower grade sashimi remained strong throughout the year, whereas in 1983 this market segment was characterised by a continuously depressed market trend with only some slight improvements during holiday periods. In the near future, lower-grade sashimi will benefit from the short supplies of oil-rich products.

Unlike the USA, Japan is a major exporter of tuna. In the first 8 months of 1984, Japan exported 62 628 tons of fresh and frozen tuna, a higher quantity than in the whole of 1983. Exports of skipjack increased by 78% over Jan/Aug 1983, and albacore exports also showed a positive trend, increasing from 1,669 tons to 8,358 tons. Major importing countries are the US Mainland and Puerto Rico.

The price of frozen skipjack fell further after the already depressed year 1983, mostly due to record landings. Yellowfin prices were also slightly depressed as compared with 1983, being as low as US$1250/st in the first three months of 1984. In July they were seasonally highest at US$1800/st, but dropped again to US$1250/st at the end of 1984. Albacore prices strengthened in 1984, after the very low levels in 1983, being between US$1500-1700/st during most of the year and reaching US$1900/st in November 1984.

The European market for fresh and frozen tuna contracted further in 1984. French imports are likely to have continued their long-term trend of decline, in continuation of the policy to move canning operations from France to Senegal and Ivory Coast. Italy, the major European importer of fresh and frozen tuna decreased imports in the first 9 months of 1984 by 5% to 47,500 tons. Major suppliers to the Italian market were Spain and France, but the Philippines improved its share from 5% in Jan/June 1983 to 15% in Jan/June 1984. Prices of imported yellowfin tuna increased during the second half of 1984, reaching US$1600/ton, causing concern in the Italian canneries. Prices in 1983 were on average US$1400/ton and had weakened to US$1200-1300/ton at the beginning of 1984. Spain reported decreasing imports, down to 11100 tons in Jan/Oct 1984.

Thailand is increasingly becoming an outlet for frozen tuna, in 1984 it was the major market for the plentiful supply of skipjack from many tuna producing countries in Asia. Japan, the

major supplier of tuna to Thailand, shipped 17,290 tons, mainly frozen skipjack, in the period Jan/Aug 1984 as compared to only 3,394 tons in the corresponding period in 1983. The price of imported skipjack declined from US$700/ton in the first months of 1984, to US$650-670/ton c&f Bangkok.

The Republic of Korea remained by far the major exporter of frozen tuna to Japan, supplying 16,173 tons of big-eye tuna. This was an 8% decline from the same period in 1983. During Jan/Aug 1984, even more substantial decreases were experienced in exports of skipjack (-92%) and yellowfin tuna (-33%).

Outlook

Prices of frozen tuna for canning are expected to remain at the present low levels. US canneries should become more competitive with the imported canned tuna from low cost countries. This is likely to result in increased imports of frozen tuna, as domestic landings will not expand in the near future. Sashimi will increasingly become a well-liked product on the American market.

Imports of fresh and frozen tuna into Europe are likely to increase further as French and Spanish canneries have problems in competing with the cheap canned tuna from low cost countries.

Frozen Shellfish

Shrimp

The 1984 total world landings of shrimp are likely to have been abundant, but increases were at a slower pace than in the last decade (the international shrimp trade increased about 40% in volume and doubled in value during the 1977-83 period).

US supplies of shrimp in 1984 have been ahead of a year earlier, but the rate of growth in import is slowing down. October shrimp prices were mostly lower than a year earlier, and prices of smaller shrimp were sharply lower.

Gulf and South Atlantic landings of shrimp were 69,400 tons (heads off) in Jan/Nov 84, up 15% from a year earlier. Large increases in the Gulf offset sharp decreases in the South Atlantic.

Imports of fresh and frozen shrimp were 141,107 tons in the first 11 months of 1984, up 2% from the corresponding period of 1983. A 7% increase for raw, headless shrimp offset small declines in other categories.

Mexico, which remained by far the major supplier of imported shrimp to the USA, accounting for some 22% of the total imports, decreased slightly its exports to the USA in the period Jan/Nov

Table 9

Cumulative Gulf shrimp production, by species, for 1982-1983, 1 Jan-29 Nov 1984 (in 1000 lbs)

Year	Brown	White	Pink	Rock	Royal red	Sea bobs	Total
1984 (1 Jan-29 Nov)	58,936.4	24,715.1	8,756.3	201.3	65.7	1,397.2	93,971.9
1983	47,785.7	28,498.9	8,677.3	309.8	80.6	2,177.7	88,530.0
1982	57,810.4	26,800.4	7,550.9	298.8	74.0	2,315.8	94,850.3

Source: NMFS Fishery Market News Report

Table 10

Cumulative Gulf shrimp production, by State, for 1982-1983, 1 Jan-30 Oct 1984 (in 1000 lbs)

Year	Florida (WC)	Alabama	Missis-sippi	Loui-siana	Texas	Total
1984 (1 Jan-30 Oct)	13,258	9,022	6,574	53,612	46,486	128,952
1983	15,514	9,709	6,527	48,927	44,879	125,556
1982	13,687	10,351	6,362	57,369	44,508	132,277
1981	21,555	13,321	5,229	71,335	59,951	171,391
1980	15,526	9,514	3,735	57,581	46,408	132,764

Source: NMFS Fishery Market News Report

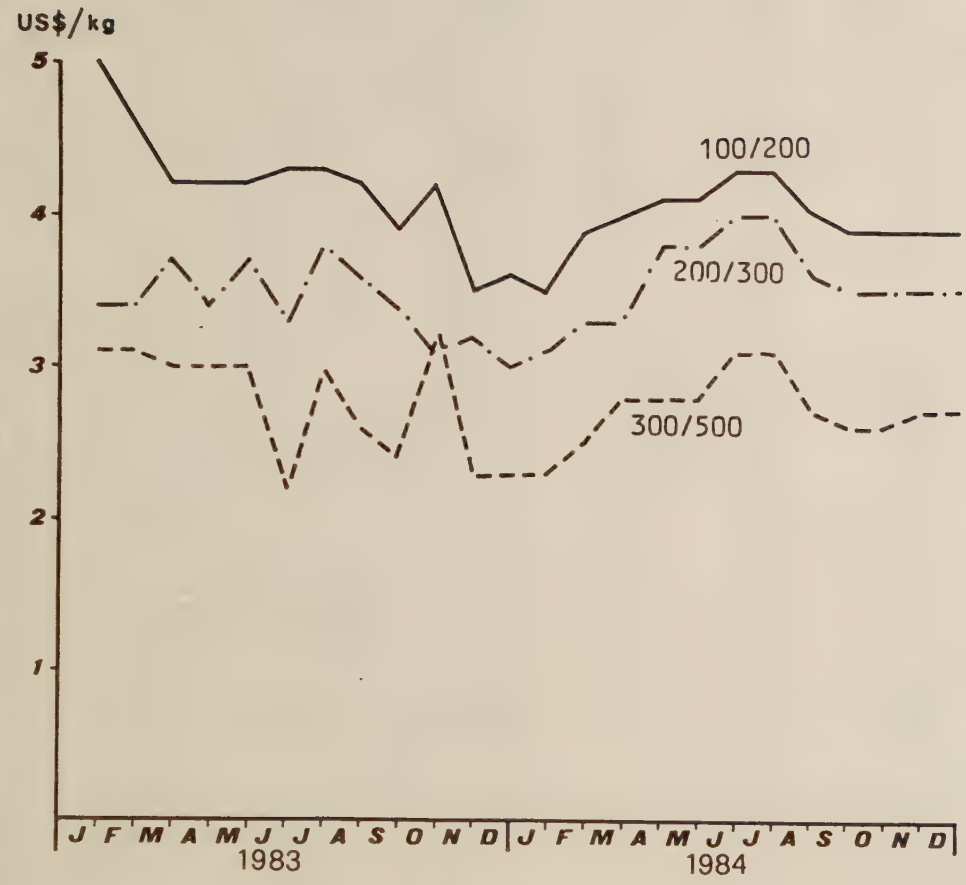

Fig. 3 USA: Pud shrimp prices, origin Pakistan

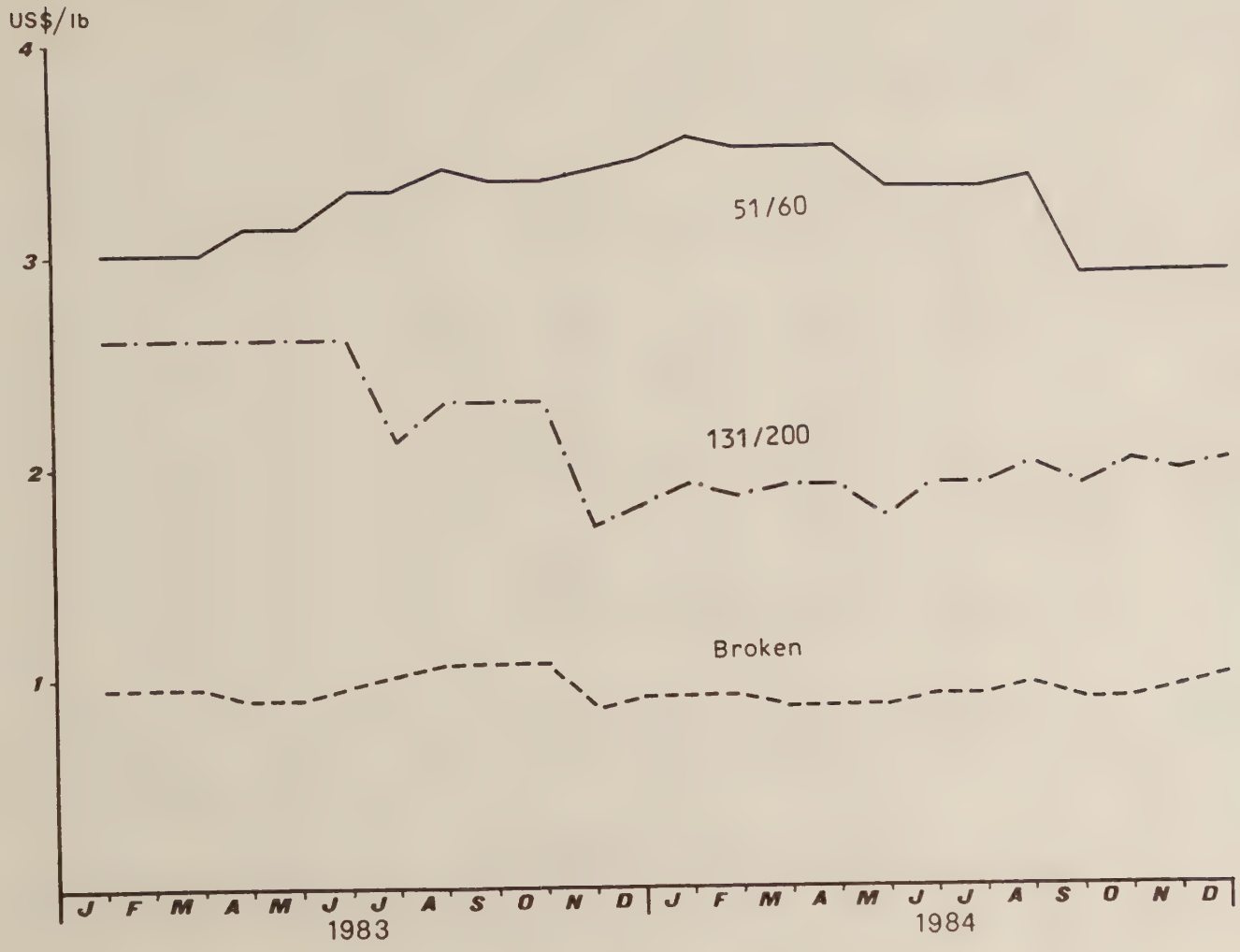

Fig. 4 USA: Pud shrimp prices, origin India

Table 11

US monthly shrimp imports (all types) by major supplying countries, Jan.-Sept. 1984
(in 1000 lbs)

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Jan-Dec. 1983	Jan-Sept. 1984
Mexico	6,669	6,462	7,411	4,919	4,330	2,489	6,569	2,290	4,087	84,562	48,226
Panama	1,659	981	450	1,161	1,715	1,679	1,865	1,463	1,651	15,255	12,625
Ecuador	4,301	3,502	3,399	4,591	3,246	3,813	4,586	3,773	4,248	51,367	35,460
Brazil	792	1,105	959	1,235	1,271	1,352	3,157	2,196	2,158	14,644	14,224
India	1,431	1,376	2,728	1,707	2,023	1,512	2,743	1,809	2,108	30,142	17,436
Taiwan, PC	2,300	1,437	1,174	1,443	1,443	1,126	797	1,352	1,603	19,902	12,672
Thailand	2,227	1,410	1,312	1,245	2,192	1,289	1,248	1,168	961	19,334	13,052
Pakistan	1,563	1,157	627	484	698	933	616	378	116	6,766	6,554
Others	9,197	6,697	7,496	7,880	5,915	10,357	11,133	9,095	10,389	98,459	78,088
Total :	33,139	24,127	25,556	24,665	22,833	24,547	32,714	23,524	27,321	341,431	238,337

Source: FAO INFOFISH

Table 12

US fresh and frozen shrimp imports by size, through selected custom ports
1981-1984 (in 1000 lbs)

	SHELL-ON				PEELED			
	1981 *	1982	1983	1984 **	1981 *	1982	1983	1984 **
Under 15	13,081	15,462	15,508	16,309	711	943	917	922
15-20	12,250	13,055	14,634	14,456	1,697	1,524	1,270	1,221
21-25	8,559	11,163	12,841	14,358	1,443	1,442	1,613	1,790
26-30	8,472	10,092	11,514	14,787	1,853	1,463	1,964	2,200
31-40	12,719	15,122	17,419	22,324	2,424	1,922	2,710	3,096
41-50	6,204	9,155	9,852	11,833	1,205	1,068	1,767	1,797
51-60	3,243	5,039	5,843	7,807	607	753	1,460	1,322
61-70	2,894	3,871	3,920	5,289	532	586	1,300	1,389
Over 70	3,803	4,304	6,076	9,536	12,968	28,986	44,137	31,222
Pieces	1,712	2,298	3,442	3,123	2,610	2,342	3,983	2,944
Uncl.	50,378	62,531	73,475	36,533	18,944	13,422	10,067	3,543
Total :	123,285	152,092	174,524	156,355	44,994	54,451	71,188	51,446

* For the period 1 Jan-24 Dec

** For the period 1 Jan-15 Nov

Source: FAO INFOFISH

1984 (-1%). The other two major suppliers also reported lower shrimp exports to the USA: Ecuador (-9%) and India (-21%). Imports of cold-water shrimp were down about 4,300 tons, mostly because of lower supplies from the USSR and Canada. Brazil reported substantially higher shrimp exports to the USA (+43%) and in Jan/Nov 1984 was the fourth major supplier.

The heavy 1984 demand kept supplies moving rather than building up coldstorage holdings. US inventories of frozen shrimp were 29,484 tons on 30 November 1984, 2% below a year earlier. Apparent consumption of fresh and frozen shrimp reached a record 213,000 tons (heads off) in the first eleven months of 1984, 10% higher than a year earlier.

Ex-vessel prices generally fell during 1984, with small shrimp prices being down by 38%. The only exceptions were the under-15s, the prices of which were 5% higher than a year earlier because of low supply.

Japan reported record imports in 1984. Cumulative imports for Jan/Oct 1984 were 135,900 tons, up 16% over a year earlier. India continued to be the major supplier, with exports increasing slightly (+3%), Indonesia was also able to expand shrimp shipments to Japan by some 10% in the first 10 months of 1984. A surprising feature was the 68% increase of shrimp exports from Taiwan(PC), which with 12,610 tons, was the third major supplier. Latin American countries, mainly Mexico and Argentina, reported lower shrimp exports to Japan (-24%).

The unfavorable and unprofitable conditions which characterized the shrimp trade in Japan during the last few months of 1982 and throughout 1983, had brought about a change in strategy by the Japanese trading companies by the end of 1983. Prices offered to exporters were directly linked to prevailing prices on the Japanese domestic market. Thus prices of shrimp in Japan were generally below 1983 and even 1982 levels. Demand in the first half of 1984 was dull, resulting in inventories reaching peak levels in June 1984. During the holiday season of mid-1984, demand increased substantially, followed by some improvements in price levels. After the holiday season, the general market situation slowed down again. High inventories and increased supplies from imports made prices weaker from mid-November onward. Japanese consumers showed in 1984 that they had become more sensitive to changes in prices. The buying behavior of Japanese consumers is more subject to variations in disposable income levels as compared to their US counterparts.

The European tropical shrimp market was generally depressed in 1984. Four factors directed the course of the market:

1) The food poisoning case in the Netherlands
2) The strength of the US dollar
3) The performance of the Japanese market
4) The plentiful supply of coldwater shrimp

Table 13

Japanese frozen shrimp imports, by country of origin, 1974-1984 (in MT)

	1984 (Jan-Sept)	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977	1976	1975	1974
India	27,310	36,912	39,833	40,049	35,249	38,757	31,580	25,803	26,901	29,942	19,898
Indonesia	17,855	21,767	23,600	24,193	27,569	29,621	28,338	25,701	25,510	21,060	19,385
China	7,540	5,778	7,253	14,954	14,502	12,082	9,197	3,749	5,569	9,768	9,483
Mexico	1,753	3,141	3,887	3,137	3,399	4,727	7,860	4,184	5,235	4,085	4,580
Thailand	5,081	7,542	9,188	10,321	8,850	9,294	8,377	2,760	9,849	8,837	6,314
Taiwan, PC	10,266	11,052	7,759	7,774	4,990	5,998	5,567	4,389	3,241	3,395	3,245
Pakistan	1,498	3,264	4,175	6,382	3,575	4,179	3,675	3,889	3,892	2,951	2,305
Korea, Rep. of	1,809	2,473	2,209	2,034	2,501	2,219	2,461	2,574	4,673	2,932	3,127
Malaysia	4,135	1,300*	1,454*	5,351	5,317	5,859*	5,155*	5,897*	6,173*	3,907*	4,347*
Iran	15	296	79	-	342	996	815	515	803	651	854
Australia	7,153	11,097	11,821	11,522	8,053	10,955	7,546	7,742	6,189	4,663	5,189
Hong Kong	1,416	2,160	2,700	3,270	3,685	4,365	4,608	5,993	4,627	4,140	4,051
Cuba	197	570	706	521	592	1,125	919	1,417	1,693	3,548	3,193
Kuwait	226	514	298	759	175	485	635	572	1,031	379	236
Vietnam	3,723	3,536	2,885	1,763	1,666	1,794	2,411	2,760	2,356	1,639	2,154
Philippines	3,696	4,281	3,694	2,678	2,395	3,701	2,791	2,393	2,081	1,109	1,521
Nigeria	395	579	1,977	815	530	564	1,060	1,060	831	867	771
Bahrain	-	-	-	NA	-	239	1,031	1,041	974	1,014	1,227
Brazil	1,235	1,526	2,484	1,917	2,732	2,921	2,597	1,595	770	391	855
Liberia	-	5	-	-	122	181	212	270	320	330	611
Guyana	348	817	772	765	976	875	1,176	1,067	900	939	762
Camaroon	-	-	-	NA	10	170	88	217	386	474	809
Singapore	167	316	352	206	124	326	374	489	336	345	517
USA	64	19	26	123	68	285	479	454	332	68	130
Bangladesh	4,040	3,726	3,353	2,820	1,721	1,694	1,170	865	565	339	220
USSR	377	34	355	173	121	261	1,861	0	0	0	1,294
Total : (incl. 'Other countries')	121,048	148,678	151,396	161,725	143,256	158,672	143,962	124,780	123,334	113,672	103,311

* Excluding Sarawak

Source: FAO INFOFISH

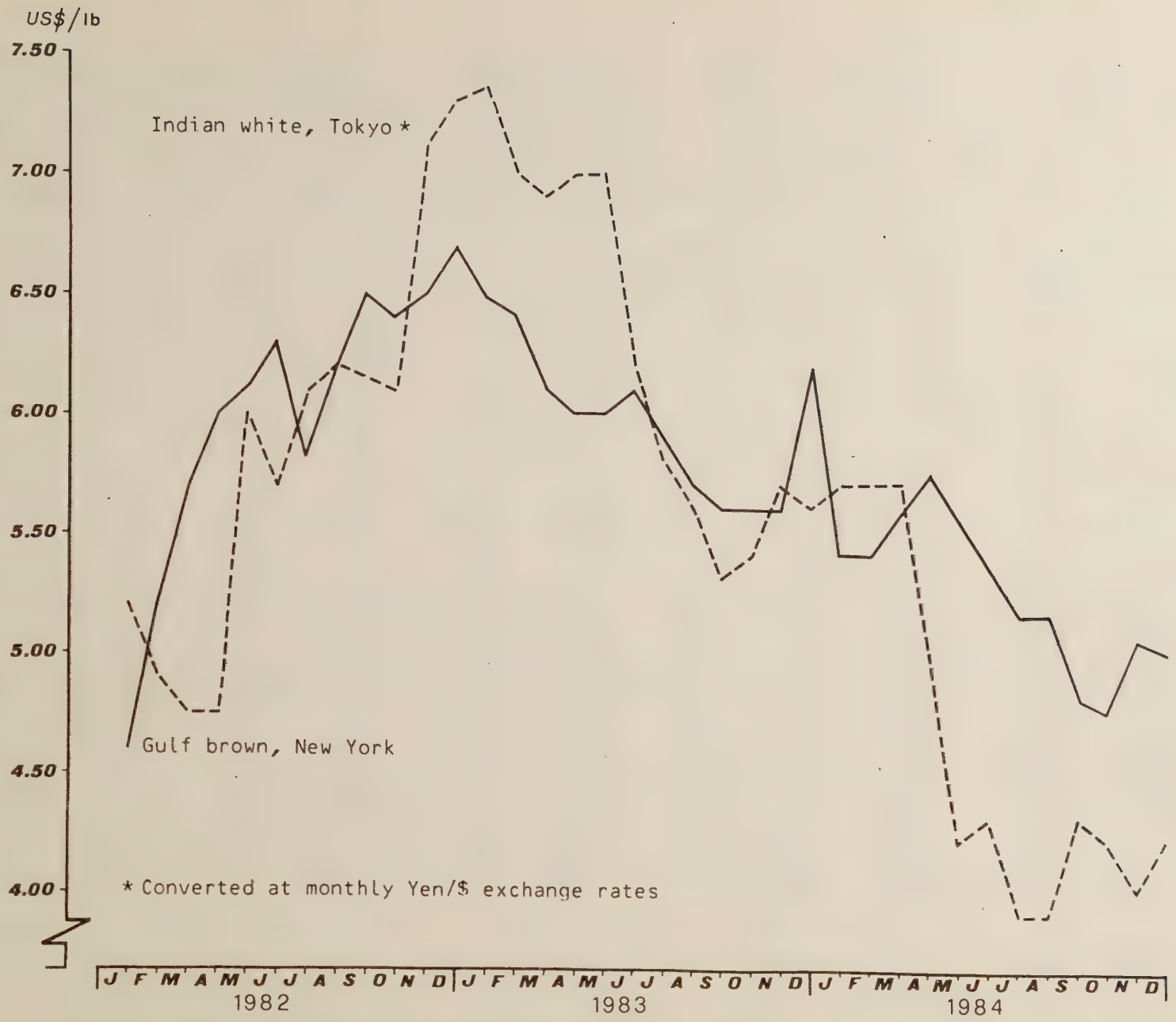

Fig. 5 Monthly average shrimp prices in USA and Japan (frozen, headless, shell-on, 26-30 count)

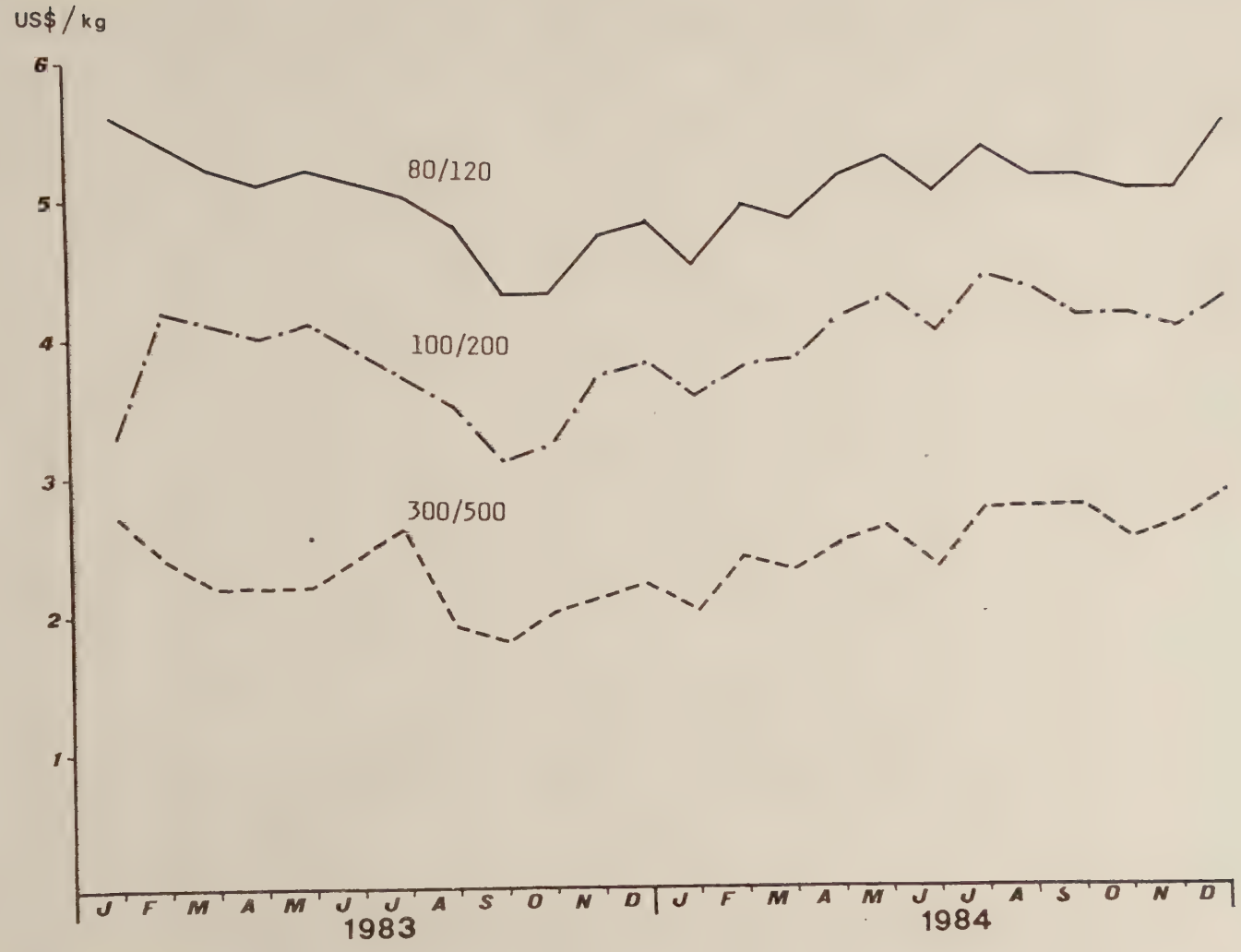

Fig. 6 Japan: Pud shrimp prices, origin India, C & F Japan

Table 14

Cumulative Japanese shrimp imports
(in MT)

	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978
January	12,381	12,264	12,264	13,773	9,909	11,090	9,409
February	24,684	23,699	21,505	25,682	21,454	23,636	17,000
March	39,728	35,394	31,792	37,909	31,590	37,772	28,227
April	53,999	49,304	44,627	50,545	40,727	51,136	40,500
May	66,492	60,394	58,395	63,910	60,955	65,364	52,273
June	79,040	72,755	70,612	75,908	62,863	78,727	63,045
July	93,176	83,938	83,964	87,864	74,818	89,227	75,409
August	108,333	93,295	95,800	100,136	88,045	102,591	89,227
September	121,048	101,135	107,251	113,818	101,318	114,363	99,818
October	135,900	116,979	120,666	131,682	116,273	131,090	113,727
November	153,886	133,199	135,548	144,957	128,590	146,455	128,818
December	169,400	148,628	151,396	161,818	143,318	158,672	144,273

Source: FAO INFOFISH

Since most of the shrimp imported from outside the EEC are paid for in US dollars, importers waited in 1984 for a decrease of the US dollar to import shrimp at lower prices. But the European currencies remained weak throughout 1984, and the relatively stronger yen attracted increased quantities of shrimp to Japan.

The increases in catches of coldwater shrimp, together with the food poisoning case in the Netherlands, weakened the demand for tropical shrimp. Coldwater shrimp, which occasionally was cheaper than tropical shrimp, was able to gain market shares.

Imports of shrimp into Europe were generally below 1983 levels, the only exception being the UK, where imports of shrimp and prawns were up by 14% in the first 11 months of 1984, reaching 17,100 tons, with India the major supplying country. Import prices generally decreased, for coldwater prawns from 2.7 Pound/kg in Jan/Sept 1983 to 1.8 Pound/kg in Jan/Sept 1984, and for other shrimp and prawns from 3.7 Pound/kg to 3.5 Pound/kg. Imports by FR Germany decreased from 3,973 tons in Jan/Sept 1983 to 2,160 tons in Jan/Sept 1984. The main exporting countries are the Netherlands, followed by the Faroe Islands and USSR. Italian imports in Jan/June 1984 were down by 5% to reach 5435 tons, by far the main supplying country was Argentina, while Cuba lost market shares. Imports to France, the major importing country, decreased by 14% in Jan/Nov 1984, reaching 21,700 tons. Spanish 1984 shrimp imports were also reportedly below the 1983 figures.

Coldwater shrimp supplies were abundant, which indicates a peak in landings in the major producing countries. Norway reported in the first 8 months of 1984 a prawn production of 50.0 tons, 9% below the record landings for the same period in 1983. Exports of prawns and other crustaceans from Norway increased further in 1984, the main importing countries being Japan and Sweden. Iceland's coldwater prawn production is also showing an upward trend; in 1984 21,300 tons of prawn were landed, almost doubling the 1983 result. In Jan/Oct 1984, 3825 tons of frozen prawn were exported by Iceland, a 55% increase over the same period in 1983. Major importing countries were UK and Denmark.

Outlook

Abundant supplies of both coldwater and tropical shrimp will keep prices down. The strong US dollar will further attract high quantities of shrimp to the USA.

Demand for shrimp in the USA is expected to grow further, but at a lower pace than in the past, while Japanese consumers seem to accept shrimp only at relatively low prices. Provided the US dollar continues to be strong, Europe will be less competitive on the international market for tropical shrimp; however, further increases in coldwater shrimp catches could keep the European market well supplied.

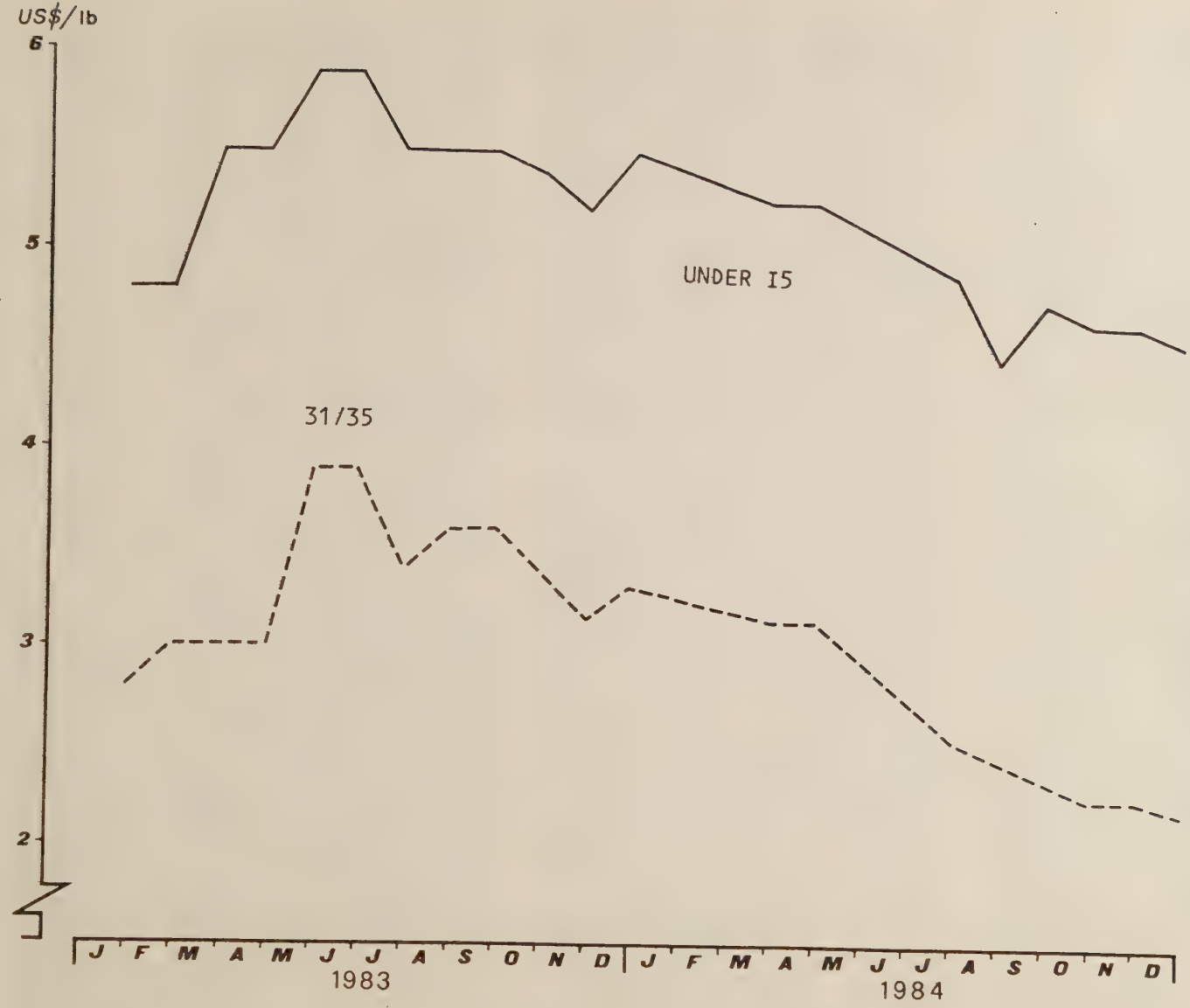

Fig. 7 Europe: Headless freshwater shrimp prices, origin Bangladesh

Lobster

International trade in lobster appears to have increased by 15% to 30,345 tons in Jan/Nov 1984; the high US dollar attracting lobster to the USA, resulted in Japanese imports decreasing slightly by 2%.

In the USA, the increased disposable income improved the market situation of lobster. Throughout 1984 demand outfaced supply resulting in increased prices, especially for lobster from Australia, where production and exports were running about 20% below 1983. In Japan, demand for lobster increased throughout 1984. The acute shortage of Australia lobster resulted in an increased demand for Cuban and Namibian substitutes.

The world lobster market is likely to continue to be strong in 1985, due to an overall positive economic situation. Prices are expected to increase further as supplies may be even lower than in 1984.

Crab

There was a significant increase in crab trade in 1984, returning to 1982 levels. Japan, the world's major import market, increased imports in Jan/Oct 1984 by 15% to 18,325 tons. In the same period, US exports increased by only 1% to 6 987 tons, which shows that Japan is receiving crab also from other sources. Canada is increasingly becoming a major supplier of crab to Japan, accounting for about one fourth of Japanese imports. Also other major exporters, such as China and the USSR, appear to have shipped more crab in 1984 than in 1983.

Landings in the USA seem to have continued the progressive decline which started in 1980. Since that year, when king crab landings in Alaska peaked at 84,000 tons, they have progressively declined to 9,000 tons in 1983. 1984 production is expected to be even lower than this. As a consequence, ex-vessel prices were as high as US$3.2/kg, which reduced the possibility of entering the Japanese market. Also the US market showed price resistance and there was an increase in demand for crabmeat imitations from Japan. Supplies remained tight throughout the year. Inventories at the end of October 1984 were 26% below October 1983 stocks.

The continuous growth in production of artificial crabmeat products made in Japan and based on Alaska pollock is causing major concern to the Alaskan and Canadian crab producers. Japanese exports show a tremendous increase in 1984, from 18,825 tons in 1983 to 27,698 tons in 1984. Of these exports, 22,785 tons (82%) were shipped to the USA. It is uncertain whether the current export growth rate can be maintained due to the fact that the USA are starting to produce artificial crabmeat domestically on a large scale.

Cephalopods

During 1984, the principal market for squid, cuttlefish and octopus products continued to be Japan, followed by Spain and Italy.

In the import statistics of Japan, squid and cuttlefish are grouped together making it difficult to indicate the consumption of each item. In the first 8 months of 1984, Japanese imports of squid and cuttlefish decreased by 17 percent as compared to the corresponding period of 1983, mainly due to lower imports from Poland. However, record imports in September and October 1984 offset this decline and cumulative imports in October 1984 reached the 1983 level of 92,000 tons.

During the first 5 months of 1984, when domestic landings were at a seasonal low, squid prices increased dramatically, reaching a peak level of US$3.5/kg in May 1984, after which they began to ease to 1983 levels. This was mainly in response to high domestic landings - and to higher imports. Another reason for the drop in squid prices in the third quarter of 1984 was the consumer resistance to increasing prices and the switch from squid to the lower priced cuttlefish.

The Japanese market for octopus was strong in 1984, with imports - which generally account for more than 90 percent of octopus supplies - reaching 84400 tons in the first 10 months of 1984, some 11 percent higher than in the corresponding period in 1983. Prices for octopus remained stable during the whole of 1984.

In Europe, the market for cephalopods throughout 1984 was generally unfavourable. The strength of the US dollar consistently hampered buying by European importers. In Italy the market for squid remained weak as current stock levels continued to be high; imports were 4% lower in Jan/Sept 1984 than in the corresponding period of 1983. Two factors influenced the import of squids into Italy:

- the ban on Thai squid from April - July 1984,
- the enforcement of a reference price for squid in the last quarter of 1984, which reduced considerably the import of low-priced squid from Poland.

Squid prices have not yet declined and consumer resistance is likely to continue also in 1985. Imports of squid into France were negatively affected by currency problems as importers insisted on paying in French Francs. In the second half of 1984, Spain experienced record imports (+68% in Jan/Oct 1984), high inventories and low prices. This was due to high imports of Polish squid in the first 5 months of 1984, increased arrivals of Illex squid from the Argentina/Spain joint venture in the third quarter of 1984. Exports by Spain were 61 600 tons in Jan/Oct 1984, almost 2/3 above the corresponding figure for 1983.

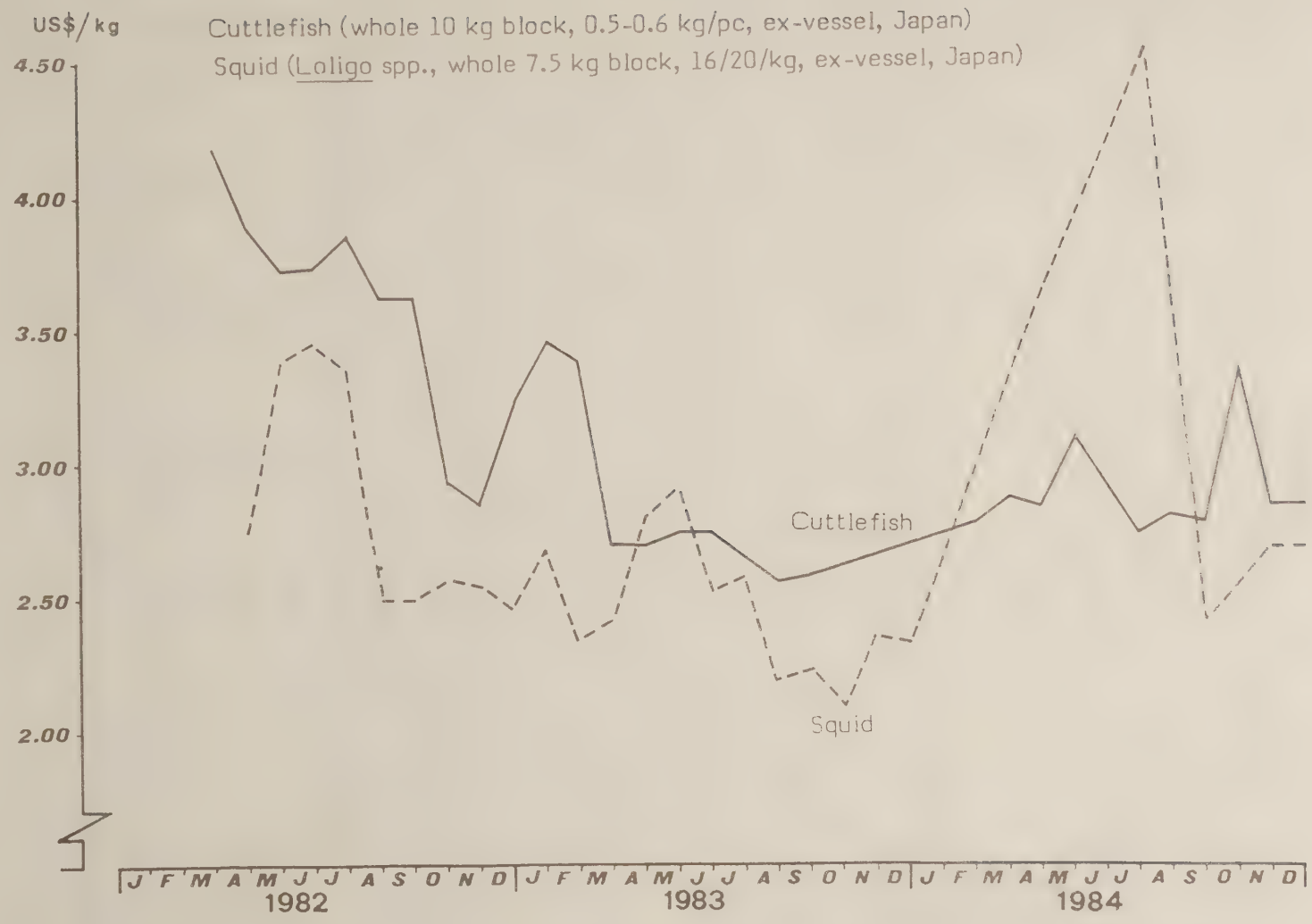

Fig. 8 Japan: Cuttlefish and squid prices, 1982-1984

Table 15

US imports of scallops, by country of origin (in MT)

	1981	1982	1983	1983 (Jan-Nov)	1984 (Jan-Nov)
Canada	8,666	6,796	6,267	6,107	3,716
Iceland	899	1,215	1,543	1,437	1,112
Japan	292	382	3,368	2,883	2,997
Australia	474	438	1,442	1,285	514
Other countries	1,565	631	2,929	2,070	2,758
Total :	11,896	9,462	15,549	13,783	11,097

Source: NMFS Fishery Market News Report

Table 16

US imports of fresh or frozen froglegs, by country of origin (in MT)

	1981	1982	1983	1983 (Jan-Nov)	1984 (Jan-Nov)
India	1,849	1,935	897	766	1,581
Bangladesh	955	999	1,296	1,084	1,035
Others	411	272	246	171	329
Total :	3,215	3,206	2,439	2,021	2,945

Source: NMFS Fishery Market News Report

Molluscs

Low landings of scallops in the USA continued in 1984, reportedly due to overexploitation of deepwater scallop grounds in 1981/82. Recovery is not likely until 1986, at earliest. As a management tool, a minimum count of 35 meat per pound had been imposed since June 1983. An even lower count regulation (30 meat per pound) was to have been enforced on 1 January 1984, but was postponed several times, most recently until 30 September 1985. Scallop meat prices during 1984 remained in the high 1983 range of US$ 6-7 per pound. These prices were, as in 1983, the result of strong demand throughout the year in combination with poor domestic landings.

The high prices of the US domestic market and the high US dollar exchange rate attracted increased supplies. Demand will be high also through 1985, with prices slightly below the 1983/84 levels, but will remain well above the 1982 range.

Froglegs

US imports of froglegs increased in 1984, reaching the 1983 level in the first nine months of the year. However, total 1984 imports are expected to be far below the 1981-82 average.

In 1984, India returned to its position as the main supplier of froglegs to the US market, while in 1983 Bangladesh was the major exporting country.

Prices were high throughout 1984, as supplies were difficult due to FDA restrictions, a closed season of frogleg processing in India from 15 April-15 August 1984, and floods in Bangladesh. The European market was weak, mainly because of the high US dollar and the generally high prices in the USA, which attracted the short supply there. Some packers repacked cartons initially destined for Europe, into 10 lb packs for the US market.

Cured fish

In the first nine months of 1984, the negative trend of world trade in cured fish continued, due to import restrictions by the major importing countries. Many traditional producers of cured fish products diverted a share of their raw material supplies to frozen groundfish production. Thus Iceland increased production of frozen cod though landings were decreasing, by reducing the utilization of cod for salted and dried products by almost one third.

Exports of dried, salted and smoked fish from Norway, the largest producer and exporter, increased in the first 9 months of 1984 by 10 percent. The positive trend was mainly due to higher exports of klipfish which were 13,000 tons higher in

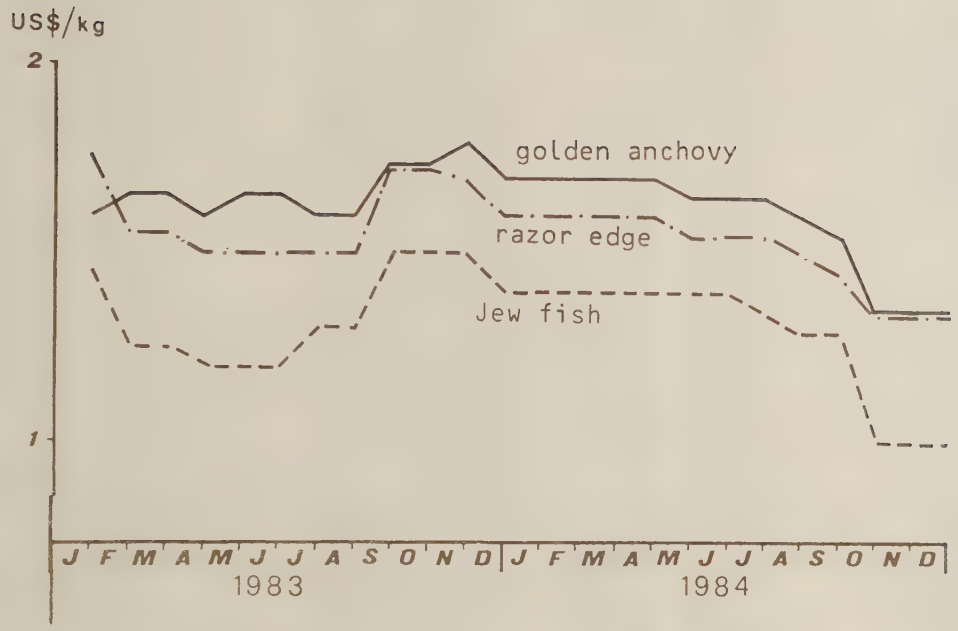

Fig. 9 India: Export prices of dried fish

January/September 1984 than in the corresponding period of 1983. Brazil was the major importer of this commodity from Norway (9,700 tons), followed by Portugal (8,700 tons). Norway also succeeded in increasing by 7 percent its salted groundfish exports, mainly due to exports of over 5,000 tons to Portugal which had not imported any baccalao from Norway in January/September 1983. Italy, with 5,850 tons, remained the major importer of salted groundfish from Norway.

In the period under survey (January/September 1984) the stockfish exports from Norway remained depressed (-50% compared with the corresponding period 1983) due to import restrictions by Nigeria. This market may however revive soon as import licences for fish products valued at US$ 150 million have recently been issued in Nigeria.

Exports of cured fish from Iceland declined by some 12 percent in the January/October 1984 period as compared to the corresponding period 1983, mainly due to extremely low sales in September and October 1984. Salted herring exports are still improving slightly with the USSR, which imported 15 814 tons, being the major market. Imports by Portugal, traditionally Iceland's largest cured fish market, dropped further to only 15 063 tons, as compared to about 20 000 tons in 1983. Nigerian import restrictions also had a negative impact on Iceland's export of stockfish, only 177 tons, down from 4 054 tons.

In Canada, exports of salted and/or dried groundfish are likely to have declined further, as January/August 1984 data indicate a 18 percent decline. Salted and dried cod, which accounted for about 75 percent of the cured groundfish exports, dropped from 21,358 tons (January/August 1983) to 17,182 tons (January/August 1984), mainly due to a 50 percent decrease in exports to Portugal which had imposed a higher rate of duty on products from countries not giving fishing rights to Portugese vessels. Pickled fish exports show an increasing trend (+15 percent) because of improved sales of pickled herring to the USA.

In Asia, trade for delicacy and high-value items, such as dried sharkfin, abalone and shrimp, was dull, due to price resistance in Hong Kong. However, data on the pre-Chinese New Year season (last quarter 1984) which is the main buying season for these products, are not yet available. Demand is likely to pick up gradually as the economic situation of Hong Kong and its political future seem to have stabilized. The other salted/dried fish markets in Asia remained stable, due to the increase in domestic consumption.

Table 17

Norwegian exports of dried, salted and smoked fish
by country of destination, 1981-1984 (in MT)

	1981	1982	1983	1983 (Jan-Sept)	1984 (Jan-Sept)
Nigeria	21,976	9,740	8,481	6,083	591
Brazil	11,962	14,612	10,185	7,714	9,680
Italy	13,460	17,393	16,778	11,439	12,060
France	7,724	7,336	6,903	5,513	3,585
Portugal	7,667	7,883	7,682	5,056	14,101
Jamaica	3,272	4,369	2,340	2,316	1,236
Dominican Republic	2,416	1,162	2,069	1,493	1,940
Greece	1,646	1,348	1,184	851	370
Others	32,320	25,970	30,683	17,930	20,495
Total :	102,443	89,813	86,305	58,395	64,058

Table 18

Norwegian exports of dried, salted and smoked fish
by species, 1982-1984 (in MT)

		1982	1983	1984 (Jan-Jun)
Herring:	Salted or dried	3,708	5,126	2,245
	Smoked	551	599	387
Gadoids - Salted:	Cod	7,594	12,252	6,694
	Saithe	1,404	1,042	404
	Ling	917	538	246
	Others	599	176	210
Stockfish:	Tusk	1,931	1,883	102
	Cod	9,118	8,334	2,097
	Saithe	4,093	3,517	433
	Others	728	528	96
Klipfish:	Tusk	3,748	4,045	2,897
	Cod	24,473	22,559	12,746
	Saithe	16,654	12,170	9,114
	Ling	7,352	5,865	4,685
	Others	593	452	163
Fillets - Salted or dried		5,092	4,720	3,425
Others		1,258	2,489	520
Total :		89,813	86,305	46,464

Source: Norwegian Monthly Trade Statistics

Table 19

Icelandic exports of dried, salted and smoked fish
by product form, 1981-1984 (in MT)

	1981	1982	1983	1983 (Jan-Oct)	1984 (Jan-Oct)
Salted herring	19,181	18,223	21,133	19,167	20,441
Other salted fish	55,952	55,050	43,389	35,222	28,151
Salted fish - dried	926	1,439	2,752	2,107	2,312
Salted fillets	2,127	1,310	1,988	1,218	2,059
Stockfish	18,985	4,270	6,463	4,054	177
Roes - salted	3,370	2,900	1,874	1,841	2,827
Others	51	44	42	42	91
Total :	100,592	83,236	77,641	63,613	56,058

Table 20

Icelandic dried, salted and smoked fish export
by country of destination, 1981-1984 (in MT)

	1981	1982	1983	1984 (Jan-Oct)
USSR	14,849	14,860	16,168	15,814
Portugal	38,432	36,722	24,522	15,062
Nigeria	18,087	1,657	5,975	1
Spain	10,239	8,992	8,578	6,847
France	986	2,552	3,422	2,453
Greece	4,116	4,414	4,006	2,249
Italy	3,802	4,257	3,730	2,811
Brazil	NA	382	1,354	852
Others	10,081	9,400	9,886	9,969
Total :	100,592	83,236	77,641	56,058

Source: Hagtidindi

Canned Fish

Canned Tuna

The share of imported canned tuna in total canned tuna supply in the USA is continuously increasing, and was expected to reach 20% by the end of 1984. This is mainly because of competitive prices of the products coming from low-labour-cost countries. In the first 11 months of 1984, imports of canned tuna into the USA increased by 31% to 70,800 tons, 15,000 tons more than total imports for the whole of 1983. The major canned tuna exporting country was Thailand, which more than doubled its exports to the USA, and reached a share of 53% of total US canned tuna imports.

US tuna canners have been pressing for increased protection against cheap imports, mainly from Thailand and the Philippines, but in July 1984, the US International Trade Commission decided not to raise 35% the import tariff for canned tuna in brine. Import prices of canned lightmeat tuna from the Philippines and Thailand decreased slightly during 1984 and remained at the low level of US$21.5 per case of 48x6-1/2 oz. Wholesale prices of canned tuna in the USA remained stable during 1984, at levels somewhat below 1983 prices.

In Japan, raw material supplies (landings plus imports) increased during 1984. Canned tuna production, especially skipjack, also expanded. Exports of canned tuna increased by 23% in the first 8 months of 1984, as exports of canned skipjack were up by 41%. Major outlet for canned skipjack in brine was the USA as a result of an improved US market for canned products, the strong US dollar and lower raw material prices. Japan recovered lost ground also in another traditional market the UK, while South Africa and Canada remained important importers of Japanese canned tuna.

Imports of canned tuna into Europe are expected to have increased in 1984 as compared to 1983. France, FR Germany and the UK remained the leading importers of canned tuna in Europe. In 1984, UK canned tuna imports expanded further, reaching 22,500 tons in Jan-Nov 1984, 26% higher than in the whole of 1983 and double the 1977-81 five-year average. Japan, which was the most important supplier of canned tuna to the UK in 1982, regained this position, exporting 6325 tons in 1984. Other major suppliers were Ivory Coast, Fiji, and the Philippines.

Imports of canned tuna and bonito into FR Germany are likely to have increased in 1984, with Thailand the major source of supply, accounting for one-third of the total market. In France, increased imports of canned tuna offset slight decreases in domestic production. Major exporting countries are Ivory Coast and Senegal. Canned tuna demand in Italy is mainly satisfied by the domestic canning industry which processes imported tuna. In the first 6 months of 1984, frozen tuna imports for canning

Table 21

Imports of canned tuna into France
(in 1000 cartons, 48 x 0.5 s), 1982-1984

	1982	1983	1984
Senegal	1,474.9	1,809.6	1,748.4
Ivory Coast	1,597.6	1,733.0	1,637.6
Morocco	36.6	*	*
Other countries	31.2	32.8	35.2
Total :	3,140.3	3,575.4	3,421.2

* Listed under 'Other countries'

Table 22

Imports of canned tuna into the UK
(in 1000 cartons, 48 x 0.5 s), 1982-1984

	1982	1983	1984
Japan	452.1	308.5	687.9
Ivory Coast	154.2	293.6	414.6
Fiji	157.6	340.2	355.5
Philippines	58.5	327.7	301.7
Mauritius	83.0	174.0	215.3
Thailand	40.5	63.2	130.3
Senegal	34.0	130.0	160.4
Solomon Islands	60.1	94.2	81.6
Other countries	249.2	118.8	182.9
Total :	1,289.2	1,850.2	2,530.2

Source: Foodnews

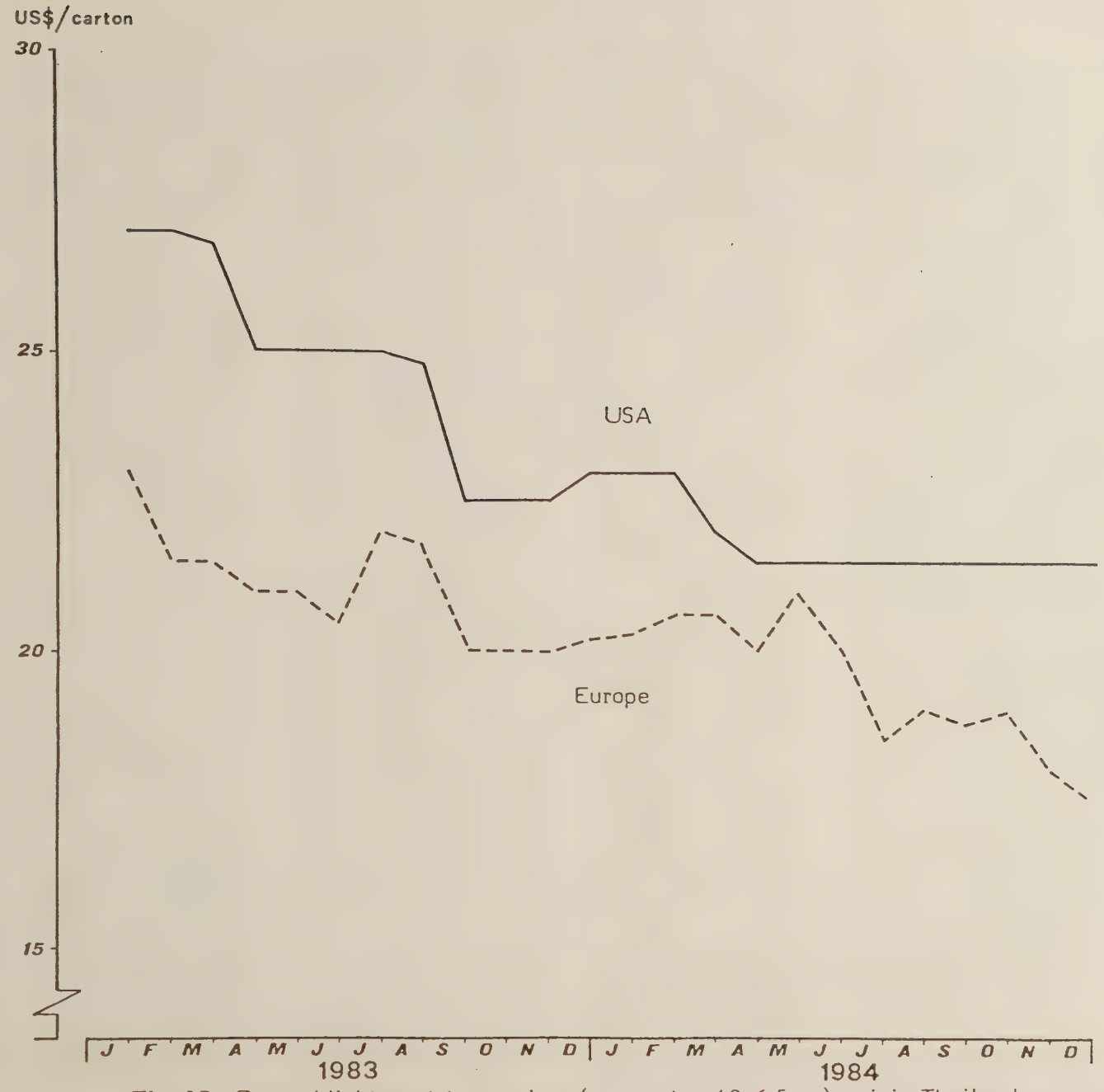

Fig. 10 Canned lightmeat tuna prices (per carton 48x6.5 oz), origin Thailand

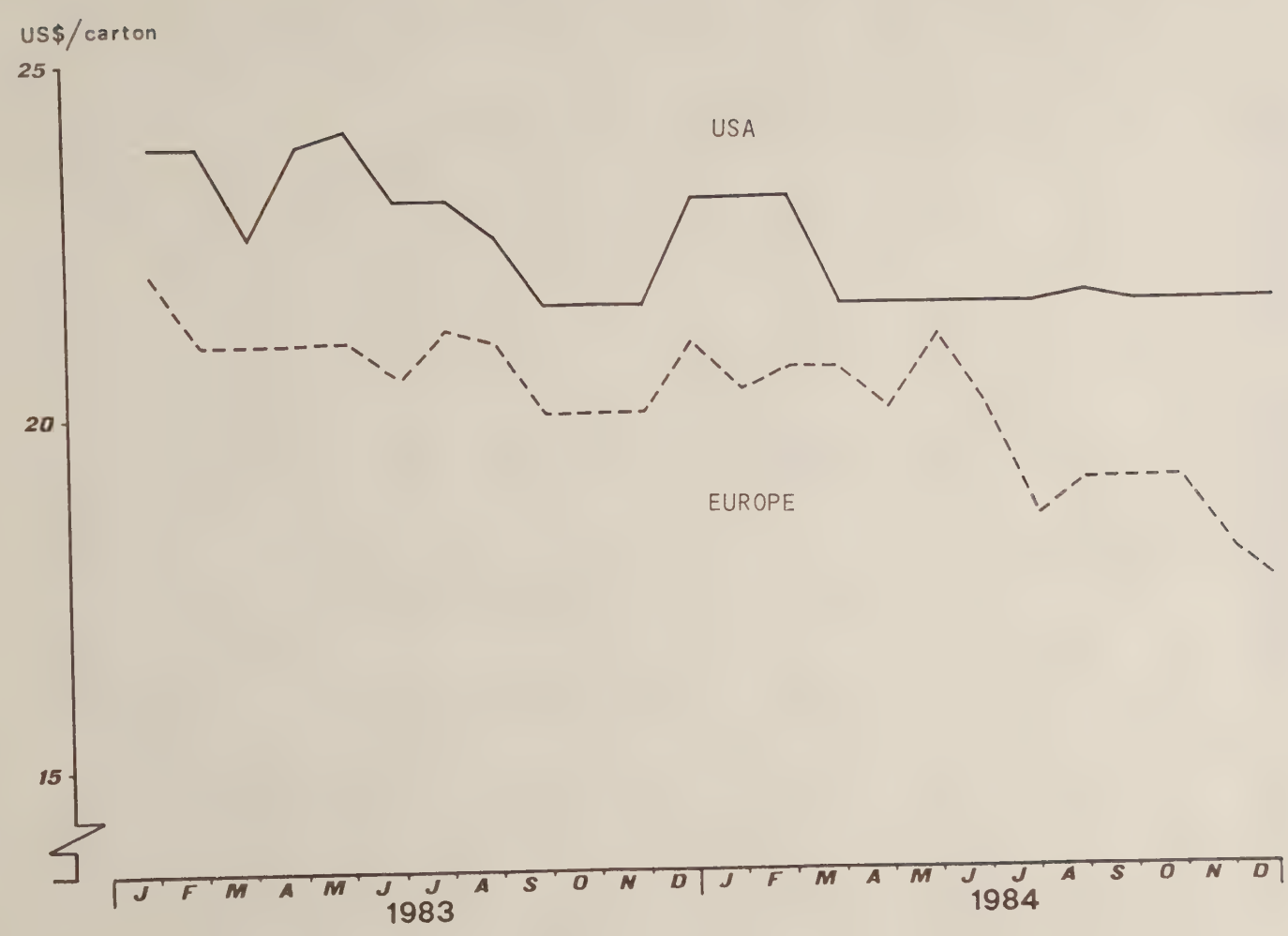

Fig. 11 Canned lightmeat tuna prices (per carton 48x6.5 oz), origin Philippines

Table 23

Imports of canned tuna into the Federal Republic of Germany
(in 1000 cartons, 48 x 7 oz), 1977-1983, Jan-Jun 1984

	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984* (Jan-Jun)
Thailand	49.3	72.7	91.4	89.2	133.1	490.4	577.6	372.6
Taiwan (PC)	710.4	942.9	1,025.6	1,029.6	700.4	380.0	319.8	141.0
Philippines	**	42.4	11.7	66.3	296.4	271.4	296.5	187.5
Senegal	13.5	25.1	62.8	82.0	114.2	132.9	161.7	96.1
Malaysia	56.1	60.2	76.8	50.2	41.0	50.2	9.1	**
Ghana	**	**	**	20.1	25.4	36.5	25.8	**
Mauritius	**	**	**	25.9	6.8	35.2	27.2	**
Japan	139.1	166.8	121.9	87.8	28.7	27.4	20.2	15.7
Ivory Coast	20.4	35.8	27.9	58.3	12.2	23.9	64.7	37.2
Italy	113.1	73.0	64.5	16.2	20.5	18.6	10.3	
Other countries	148.6	86.3	99.7	56.7	51.6	102.8	182.3	172.8
Total :	1,250.6	1,505.2	1,582.4	1,604.2	1,430.3	1,569.3	1,695.1	1,022.9

* 48/0.5 s

** Listed under 'Other countries'

Source: Foodnews, FAO INFOFISH

purposes fell further by 16%, reaching only 28,800 tons. In the long run, the cheap canned tuna available on the international market will also penetrate the Italian market, always provided that the traditional product form - canned tuna in olive oil - is made available.

Canned Sardine

The re-orientation toward herring of the Western European market for canned small pelagic fish, which started in 1983 continued in 1984. Herring supplies in Western Europe are more abundant and prices are generally lower. As a consequence of the increased supply of low-priced canned herring, the Western European demand for canned mackerel, sardine and sardine-type products, which in recent years had substituted for herring, decreased in 1984.

The world market for the cheaper canned pilchard is strongly affected by the low demand in West Africa and South-East Asia. In 1984 trade in these commodities remained at the low 1983 level. Japan, the major exporting country, experienced slight increases in exports of canned pilchard in the first eight months of 1984, +5% for canned sardine in tomato-sauce and +10% for other canned sardines. A major feature of the Japanese exports was that the Philippines, which had been by far the major importer in 1982, did not import any canned sardines in 1984. This import restriction aims at developing the domestic sardine canning industry. Markets for canned sardines which increased in importance were South Africa (+68%) and the USA (+76%).

Peru is the second major exporter of canned sardine. Its production was badly hit in 1983 by the effects of the El Niño current, but catches off Peru recovered in the first months of 1984 and lost market shares in the main importing countries - especially in the UK-have been regained. Peru accounted for 43% of UK imports of canned pilchard in the first 6 months of 1984, while its share was only 27 percent in 1983. On the other hand, Chile, which had benefitted from the low Peruvian production in 1983, decreased its UK market share from 38% in 1983 to only 24% in the period Jan/June 1984. In the third quarter of 1984, Peruvian canners reported problems in fulfilling export contracts for canned pilchard, as sardine stocks moved further off-shore than usual. Imports of canned pilchard to the UK were some 16% higher in Jan/Nov 1984 than one year earlier, reaching 11800 tons.

Portugal, Spain and Morocco are the main producers of canned Mediterranean sardines. As traditionally, about 90% of the Spanish canned sardine production has gone to the African market. Spain was most affected by the trade restrictions of West African countries. Total Spanish trade in canned sardines is likely to have declined sharply in 1984. Morocco's traditional canned sardine market is France, to which it supplies about 50% of imports. Morocco has not regained its position in the UK, where

Table 24

UK imports of canned pilchards
(in 1000 cartons, 48 x 0.5 s), 1982-1984

	1982	1983	1984
Peru	498.6	308.2	511.5
Japan	341.6	392.7	516.8
Chile	159.8	441.6	212.1
Other countries*	90.3	3.5	94.0
Total :	1,070.3	1,146.0	1,334.4

* Mainly South Africa

Source: Foodnews

Table 25

Japan exports of canned sardines/pilchards
(in 1000 cartons, 48 x 15 oz ovals), 1981-1983

	1981	1982	1983
Philippines	1,201.8	1,448.4	185.8
Malaysia	517.9	566.6	607.9
Nigeria	*	453.3	313.1
Singapore	359.7	434.6	226.2
Egypt	*	206.9	162.8
Dominican Republic	118.9	204.6	155.6
Papua New Guinea	*	199.3	225.2
United Kingdom	126.0	121.6	185.8
South Africa	496.6	*	*
Other countries	1,338.2	1,197.9	1,303.3
Total :	4,159.2	4,833.3	3,365.7

* Listed under 'Other countries'

Source: Japanese Trade Yearbook

Table 26

UK imports of canned sardines
(in 1000 cartons, 48 x 0.25 s club), 1981-1984

	1981	1982	1983	1984
Portugal	461.3	823.0	897.7	1,144.9
Morocco	419.3	145.8	455.5	414.2
Italy	76.4	366.3	186.5	216.6
Spain*	229.4	80.6	91.8	29.3
Other countries	133.6	13.6	77.0	101.1
Total :	1,320.0	1,429.3	1,708.5	1,906.1

* Includes imports from Canary Islands

Table 27

Federal Republic of Germany imports of canned sardines
(in 1000 cartons, 100 x 0.25 s club), 1981-1984

	1981	1982	1983	1984 (Jan-Jun)
Portugal	458.7	441.0	344.5	132.0
Morocco	128.0	114.2	186.3	134.4
Italy	61.6	73.2	68.3	33.8
Yugoslavia	5.2	15.4	43.4	*
Spain	8.2	7.7	7.1	*
Greece	4.8	2.3	*	*
Other Countries	9.5	4.9	4.8	7.8
Total :	675.9	658.8	654.6	308.0

* Listed under 'Other countries'

Source: Foodnews

Table 28

France imports of canned sardines
(in 1000 cartons, 100 x 0.25 s club), 1981-1984

	1981	1982	1983	1984
Morocco	493.6	537.7	598.8	657.1
Portugal	293.5	278.0	259.4	200.1
Italy	25.8	43.6	172.0	132.2
Greece	57.5	37.4	*	*
Other countries	35.7	3.1	23.9	28.7
Total :	906.1	928.1	1,054.1	1,018.1

* Listed under 'Other countries'

Source: Foodnews

Portugal is by far the major supplier of canned Mediterranean sardines, but Morocco was the major exporting country of canned sardines to FR Germany in 1984. Once Portugal and Spain become members of the EEC, Morocco will have problems in maintaining these market shares.

Import statistics for the three main European markets for canned Mediterranean sardine (France, UK, FR Germany) available for the first 11 months of 1984 indicate no major changes in imported quantities. The UK reported a 9% increase in imports, but trade restrictions in Africa reduced total trade in canned Mediterranean sardines by some 10-15% in 1984.

The USA is an important market for canned sardine/pilchard. Imports of this commodity increased further, with canned sardines, not in oil, getting a higher market share. Total US imports in the period Jan-Oct 1984 were 16,740 tons, of which only 40% canned sardines in oil. The major exporting country is Japan, followed by Norway which succeeded in regaining lost market shares. Peru also increased exports to the USA, after the "El Niño" year 1983.

Canned Mackerel

World trade in canned mackerel appears likely to have remained at the low 1983 level, as Japan which accounts for about 80% of world trade this product, reported a slight decrease in exports in the first 8 months of 1984. The unit value of Japanese canned mackerel exports declined further in the period Jan/Aug 1984; oil-packed mackerel by 14% to US$1.54/kg, the brine pack by 20% to US$0.96/kg and the tomato sauce pack by 23% to US$1.00/kg. The decrease in canned mackerel exports by Japan is mainly due to the import restrictions of Nigeria, which accounted for more than 40% of Japanese canned mackerel in 1982 (46,886 tons) and still accounted for about 20% in 1983 (16,233 tons). In the first eight months, no canned mackerel was exported from Japan to Nigeria, but at the end of 1984, some may have entered the Nigerian market, as part of the newly issued Nigerian import licences may have been used for canned mackerel imports. Papua New Guinea is at present the major importer of canned mackerel, 15,353 tons in the period Jan/Aug 1984 as compared to 12,102 tons in the corresponding period in 1983. The Middle East market is becoming of major importance for Japanese canned mackerel exports, with Egypt increasing imports by some 35 percent in Jan/Aug. 1984 over the same period a year ago.

The outlook for 1985 is more positive than the 1983 and 1984 situation for the canned mackerel market. Nigeria is likely to use part of the import licenses for canned mackerel imports from Japan, while Papua New Guinea and the Middle East countries will import same quantities as in 1984. The outlook for canned mackerel trade in Western European countries is for conditions similar to 1984.

Canned Shrimp

Imports of canned shrimp by the USA, the worlds largest market, are likely to have decreased in 1984. The Jan/Sept 1984 figure of 4,112 tons indicate a 10% lower result for the whole of 1984. The largest supplier was again Thailand, accounting for 60% of supplies. India lost its position as a major supplier of canned shrimp to the USA. The average import prices for canned shrimp in the USA decreased slightly from US$4277/ton to US$4255/ton. The strong US dollar tended to attract imports away from Europe. In fact, import data for the UK, the largest market in Europe, indicate a 27% decrease in supply.

Canned Salmon

US exports of canned salmon are expected to be down in 1984, as compared with the 1983 results. The main reasons were the high US dollar and the relatively low price of canned tuna on the international market. In Jan/Oct 1984 US exports were 15% under the corresponding 1983 figure, totalling only 15,570 tons. Red salmon, the most highly valued species, accounted for 50% of the total figure.

Canadian exports, consisting mostly of reds, increased by 17% in the first 8 months of 1984 reaching 8,283 tons. The UK, the most important European market, reported slightly lower imports in 1984. For the period Jan/Sept 1984, 13,909 tons of canned salmon were imported, as compared to 14,733 tons in the corresponding period of 1983. The average value of UK imports decreased by 4%.

Fish meal

World fish meal production amounts to about 4,700,000 tons, flucutating within a range of ± 4.5 percent per annum. The bulk comes from the larger producers like Japan, USSR and USA and is not traded internationally.

The average annual production of the five major exporting countries, viz. Peru, Chile, Iceland, Denmark, Norway (and some others such as Ecuador, Senegal, Morocco, etc.) amounts to about 2,000,000 tons or roughly 45 percent of the total world fish meal output. The 1984 fish meal production of these countries is estimated to be 2,300,000 tons (approximately the same level as 1982) compared with 1,920,000 tons produced in 1983.

With increased landings and production in Peru and Iceland during the January/September 1984 period, the overall volume available for export has risen. The Icelandic capelin catch reached 437,857 tons by the end of September. The 195,000 tons quota has been raised to 580,000 tons following a survey by marine biologists. The Icelandic production is thus expected to receive a further boost, after the previously adopted conservative measures are relaxed. Estimates put Iceland's 1984 fish meal production at 150,000 tons, an increase of roughly 131 percent over 1983.

The fluctuating Peruvian production is expected to total 450,000 tons for 1984, i.e., twice the 1983 production of 220,000 tons. However, in this context, it should be noted that on 4 November 1984, the Peruvian Government declared that up to 15 December 1984 only the use of sardine nets would be permitted while the smaller anchovy nets would be banned, thus minimizing the catch of small fish.

In Chile, fishing started at the beginning of November in the South, while in the North little fishing was expected from the middle of November until the beginning of January 1985. The Chilean fish meal production for 1984 is forecast at 651,000 tons as against about 828,000 tons for 1983 and 800,000 tons for 1982.

The 1984 Ecuadorian fish meal production is expected to recover to the 1982 level of approximately 100,000 tons after a poor 1983 with only 26,670 tons.

In Norway and Denmark, production is expected to be steady at approximately 300,000 tons respectively. USSR and Norway have agreed on a total Barent's Sea capelin quota for 1985 of 1.1 million tons against 1.4 million tons this year. Norway will get 60 percent of the total. Apart from these major exporting countries, output in the other important producing countries, e.g., Japan, USSR, South Africa, USA and Canada, is likely to remain at the 1983 levels.

1984 fish meal exports are expected to be 2,200,000 tons (1984 last quarter exports estimated at 650,000 tons), compared with 1,760,000 tons exported in 1983.

World fish meal consumption was negatively influenced and the low soyabean meal prices are expected to continue to exert a downward pressure on fish meal prices, so that the latter do not compensate the production costs in several countries. Fishmeal consumption is likely to continue at relatively low levels due to the following factors:

i) high prices for fish meal in relation to soya (1.8-1.9:1, F/S ratio in FR Germany, over the past 10 months);

ii) high protein prices in relation to cereals, reducing demand for protein products;

iii) large fish meal stocks imported at relatively high prices;

iv) downward pressure and unprofitability of EEC farmgate prices;

v) use of other protein sources comparable to fish meal;

vi) reduction in the demand for feed concentrates for the dairy herd; and

vii) resistance of feed industry/farmers to buying fishmeal because further price falls are expected.

Traditionally, the Western European countries have been the leading importers, absorbing approximately 50 percent of the total volume exported on a global scale. In 1983, Western Europe imported 1,079,000 tons of a total of 1,672,000 tons. The 1984 trends point to a downturn in both EEC imports and consumption, particularly in the case of FR Germany, where 60,000 tons were consumed in January/September 1984, compared with 120,000 tons in the corresponding period of 1983. The UK and the Netherlands reduced their imports by 24 percent and 39 percent, respectively, in 1984 as compared with 1983.

Countries of the Middle East, Africa, America (North and South) and the Far East, are expected to gain an increased share of the exports in 1984, estimated at 650/700,000 tons.

Direct exports of producing countries to Eastern Europe decreased by almost 73 percent over the 1979-83 period, with this trend continuing into 1984. A drop of over 120,000 tons between 1979-83 in Poland's fishmeal imports, explains to a large extent, the contraction of the Eastern European market as a whole.

The matching of the sluggish demand, increased supplies and high stocks, coupled with the good soyabean harvest may have resulted in some further fall in prices, especially if the Japanese and US fish meal production continues to be high.

On the positive side, the USSR's imports are likely to increase sufficiently to absorb much of the stock created by sluggish european demand, and this may help improve prices.

Fish meal prices (64/65 percent, C&F Hmb.) have fallen consistently since February 1984. The international market price declined from US$ 480/ton in January 1984 to US$ 316/ton December 1984.

Thus in the 1984-85 season there will be some increase in fish meal production in South America as well as in Europe (resulting from the restored North Sea herring fishery and increased Icelandic capelin landings).

In the 1984-85 season, fish meal supplies will also be affected by: the five-month closed period for mackerel in EEC water, starting in November 1984; the size of the recovering Atlanto-Scandinavian herring catch; as well as any longer-term impact of El Niño on Peruvian anchovy and Chilean sardine stocks.

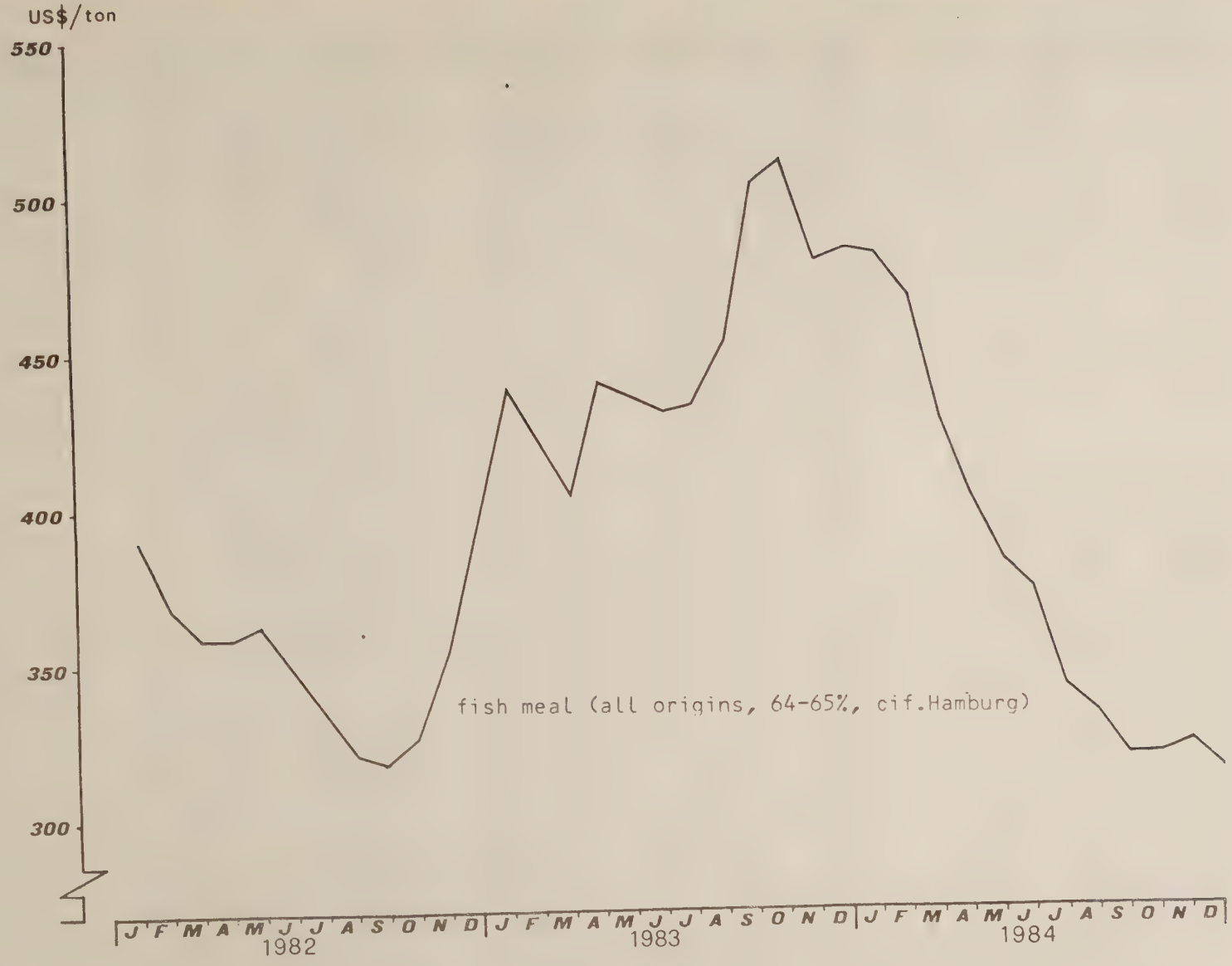

Fig. 12 Fish meal prices - Source: Oil World

The demand side, however, will be characterized by relative sluggishness, as farmers come under increasing political or economic pressure to cut the production of animal products, and Eastern European demand levels do not revert to their pre-1979 trends.

The USDA revised their estimates for world soyabean meal production during the 84/85 season to 60,796,000 tons as compared with 57,464,000 tons for the 1983/84 season ending 31 August. Meanwhile, soyabean prices continue to slip, further affecting fish meal prices.

Fish oil

Total world production for 1984 is estimated at 1,262,000 tons as against 1,116,000 tons for 1983, and 1,287,000 tons for 1982.

World fish oil production during the first 9 months of 1984 increased substantially over 1983, due to increased production in Chile, Peru, Iceland and Japan. The Japanese sardine catch up to the end of October totalled 1.7 million tons against 1.5 million tons last year. Average oil yields have been around 10 percent.

Fish oil production by Denmark and other EEC countries is estimated to remain at 1983 levels, i.e. at about 115,000 tons. Total Western European production is expected to be the same as in 1983 - approximately 371,000 tons, with Icelandic fish oil production likely to increase dramatically, by about 215 percent, and Norwegian production declining by 20 percent.

South African production for 1984 is about half the 1983 volume - 20,300 tons, while other significant producers such as the USA, USSR, Ecuador and Morocco remain at 1983 production levels with estimated outputs of 179,000 tons, 55,000 tons, 15,000 tons and 6,000 tons, respectively.

Fish oil production in Chile in 1984 is estimated at 76,000 tons compared with 23,000 tons for 1983 and 80,000 tons for 1982. The Peruvian fish oil production trends for 1984 point to a substantial increase to 103,000 tons in 1984 (19,000 tons only in 1983). However, this is still way below the 1982 output of 205,000 tons.

World fish oil disappearance is likely to stagnate at the high level of 1.23 million tons in October/September 1984-85. Estimates put total fish oil disappearance for 1984 at about 1,294,000 tons (about 194,000 tons in the last quarter 1984) as against 1,131,000 tons in 1983.

World fish oil exports were boosted to a record of 962,000 tons (+28 percent over the October/September 1982/83

season). Official data up to September 1984, available for the major fish oil exporters, show exceedingly high trends, with Japanese exports increasing by 101,000 tons, Peruvian by 40,000 tons, Icelandic by 39,000 tons, Chilean by 23,000 tons and US exports by 20,000 tons over the October/September 82/83 period. The lower Norwegian plus South African production and export supplies were thus, more than offset and did not affect the market trends.

An unusually high, almost record, fish oil output together with a depletion of fish oil stocks made this extraordinary development possible.

Although world exports are likely to decline by about 20 percent (following the trading patterns evolving in USA and Japan) to an estimated 180,000 tons in October/December 1984, total fish oil disappearance will continue at a significant level this quarter. This is especially true in the case of the EEC, the largest single fish oil importer and consumer in the world.

The increased use of fish oil in the main consuming countries was to offset the sharp reductions in the supplies of soyoil, sunflower oil, palm oil and other vegetable oils. The depressed prices of fish oil relative to vegetable oils for more than a year also helped sustain high fish oil demand levels. International market prices for fish oil have declined almost continuously since February 1984. Fish oil of any origin, cif N.W. Europe, fell from US$ 461/ton in January 1984 to US$ 285/ton in October 1984, rising somewhat to reach US$ 320/ton by December 1984.

The quantitative importance of fish oil is decreasing relative to other edible oils. The fish oil market segment seems to be heading towards a smaller and less important future in a growing market. Many of the currently popular fat blends are "locked" into an "all-vegetable oil" description and the manufacturers cannot switch to hardened fish oil, thus reducing the flexibility of the potential fish oil user even further.